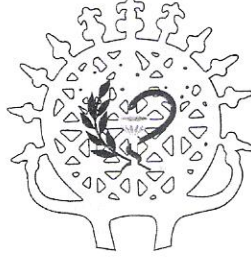


**ANKARA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF PHARMACY**



**7th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
ISOPS-7**

PROCEEDINGS AND ABSTRACTS

**JUNE 24-27, 2003
ANKARA-TURKEY**

EVALUATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF PATIENTS WHO SUPPLIED ANALGESICS FROM COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN ISTANBUL

¹A. Akıcı, ²E. Aydın, ²E. Caymaz, ²S. Ömercikoğlu, ²O. Turan, ³H. Toklu, ¹Ş. Oktay
¹Department of Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacology, ²Second Year Students, Marmara University School of Medicine, ³Department of Pharmacology, Marmara University School of Pharmacy, Istanbul, Turkey

Providing adequate information to the patients about their drugs is an essential principle of rational pharmacotherapy. It is the responsibility of both the physician and pharmacist to inform and educate the patient. Analgesics, either prescription or over-the-counter (OTC), are among most commonly used drugs. Therefore knowledge of patients about the analgesics was evaluated in this study.

A total of 400 patients, who bought analgesics from pharmacies located close to the main hospitals of Istanbul, were interviewed. Factors that might influence the background knowledge and perception of patients such as sociodemographic characteristics, analgesic-use habits and physicians' attitude were also questioned.

Almost 1/3 of patients did not have any reimbursement. Average number of drugs dispensed per person was 2.5 ± 1.1 . Twenty eight patients stated that they were prescribed without a physical examination. The patients whom were prescribed have not been provide information by the physician about the name (46.9 %), the effects (49.8 %), side effects (61.5%) and warnings (50.2 %) of the drug(s). As an example of self-medication, 161 people bought analgesics without a prescription and 48 % of respondents told that they would in the future get analgesics without prescription in case of a need. However, half of the patients could not exactly recall the name of their drug(s), and 56 % did not know the effects.

It seems likely that both the physicians and community pharmacists neglected their responsibilities in rational pharmacotherapy regarding analgesic drug use. The study underlines the importance of public education about self-medication, since it is not difficult to get drugs without prescription from the pharmacies in Turkey. These results also indicated the necessity of provision of information to the patients by pharmacists and physicians.