

Medical errors

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Introduction

The fundamental principle in the work of a doctor is not to harm *Primum noli nocere*. When getting the title of Doctor of Medicine, every graduate should feel responsible for people who will entrust him with their lives. According to the World Health Organization, every year medical errors carry away lives of many more people than road accidents. The problem of medical errors is one of the most important in the medical community not only in our country, but also all over the world. Every person should know what a medical error is, what it may result from, what it may lead to, what measures should be taken to prevent medical errors.

Aim of the study

This study was carried out to explore the phenomenon of medical errors, to determine their causes, to get the statistics on this issue from questioning BSMU students, as well as to find ways that can help prevent medical errors.

Materials and methods

Different medical and scientific sources, including foreign literature and websites, were explored. The BSMU students were questioned as to their opinion and attitude to medical errors. The opinion of some experts in legislation from the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation were also studied and taken into consideration.

Results

Medical errors are mistakes in health care that could have been prevented. They can occur in hospitals, clinics, surgical centers, doctors offices, nursing homes, pharmacies, and at home. Errors may involve medicines, surgery, diagnosis, home treatment, equipment, or laboratory reports. They are often caused by a lack of good communication, competency, education, and training, human factor, patient-related issues, technical failures, and by many other factors. Unfortunately, there is not much information that has been published on the matter in Belarus so far.

Conclusions

Medical errors are relatively common in the care of hospitalized patients and may result in serious morbidity and mortality. Therefore, awareness of both doctors and patients in the matter of medical error and development of legislation in this field would be helpful to improve the provision of medical care, to improve the patients safety and to avoid medical errors in the future.