Correlates of patients' preference for therapeutic injections in a major regional referral hospital in Ghana: Implications for policy and clinical practice

Robert Kaba Alhassan1, Bismark Appiah Adu-Gyamfi1, Agbolosu Oliver1, Bright Ayensu1, Gbekor Awoenam1, Owusu Angela1, Edward Nketiah-Amponsah1, and Prudence P. Mwini-Nyaledzigbor1

1School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho, Ghana; 2Department of Economics, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Objective

Objective of this study is to explore factors associated with patients' preference for therapeutic injection over oral medication in the Volta Regional Hospital, Ho in Ghana.

Methods

The study is a cross-sectional survey conducted among 200 patients accessing care in Volta Regional Hospital. Data were analysed using STATA statistical software for data analysis. Univariate probit regression was used to ascertain factors associated with patients' preference for therapeutic injections over oral medication (main outcome variable of interest).

Results

It was found that 74% of the 200 respondents preferred injection to oral medication. More outpatients preferred injectable medication over oral (p = .041); 86% of the respondents said they never experienced complication related to injectable medication. Patients who perceived injection as more efficacious were more likely to opt for it over oral medication (coefficient = 2.22; SE = 0.33; p < .05).

Conclusion

It is concluded that patients' preference for injectable medication over oral remains high in Ghana, and this preference is significantly associated with patients' perceptions on superiority of injections over oral medication. There is the need to intensify health education for clients and in-service trainings for health providers to control abuse of therapeutic injections and promote patient safety.