Pharmacist in securing the drug circuit: from prescription to administration (analysis and actions)

C. Muziotti, (1), J.Fodimbi (1), C. Unia, F. Santin, L. Dol (1)
(1) Pharmacy, Centre Hospitalier Hyères

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Background and importance

In a multidisciplinary hospital with 426 beds, roles of the hospital pharmacist are varied and drug circuit presents many risks of medication error. According to the WHO, the roles of pharmacists are "the Seven –star Pharmacist": care giver, decision maker, communicator, leader, manager, life long learner and teacher.

Aim and objectives

Objective : measure effectiveness of actions taken by pharmacists to reduce medication errors: from prescription to administration.

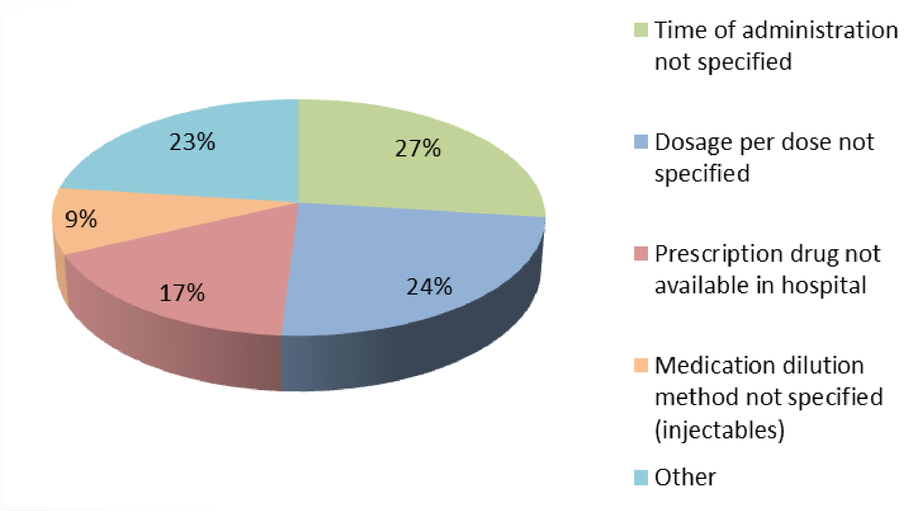
Material and Methods

Between 2019 and 2022, various stages of drug circuit were audited using previously validated audit grids. A statistical study comparing the error rate before and after the implementation of improvement actions was carried out.

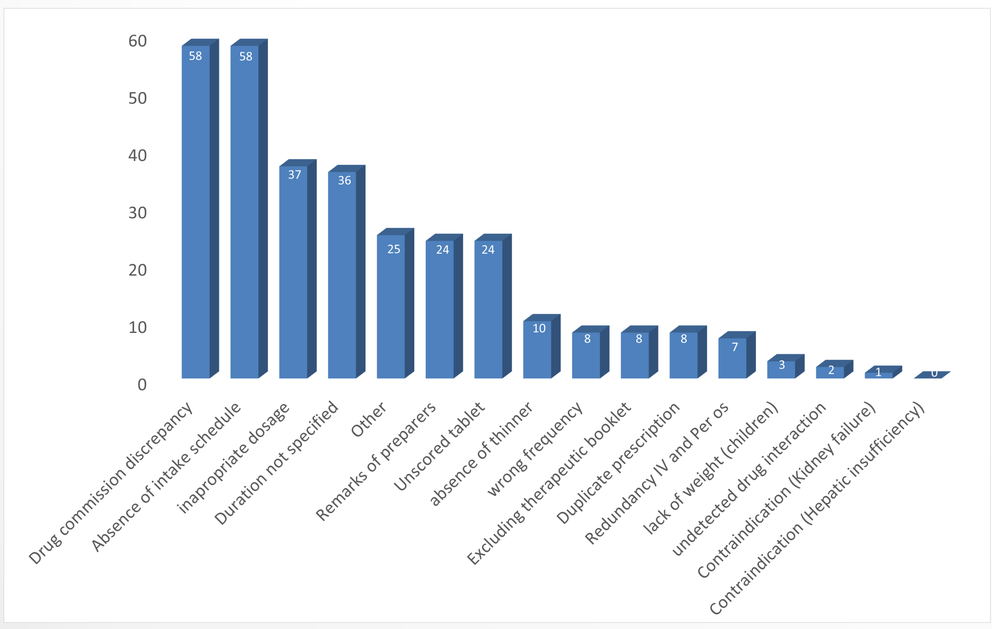
- Prescription of all injectable drugs has been formalized; new doctors arriving at the hospital have a formation
- Medication reconciliation: in the event of a discrepancy observed, doctor is systematically informed, a pharmacy student has been assigned to the surgery unit.
- Errors not detected during pharmaceutical validation were presented to the team of pharmacists.
- Dispensation : Measures to reduce risk of task interruption were implemented during dispensing (dedicated emergency telephone line, redefining tasks).
- Concerning administration of medication: training workshop days for nurses have been created and new arrivals are trained by a pharmacist

Results

→Main prescription detected errors

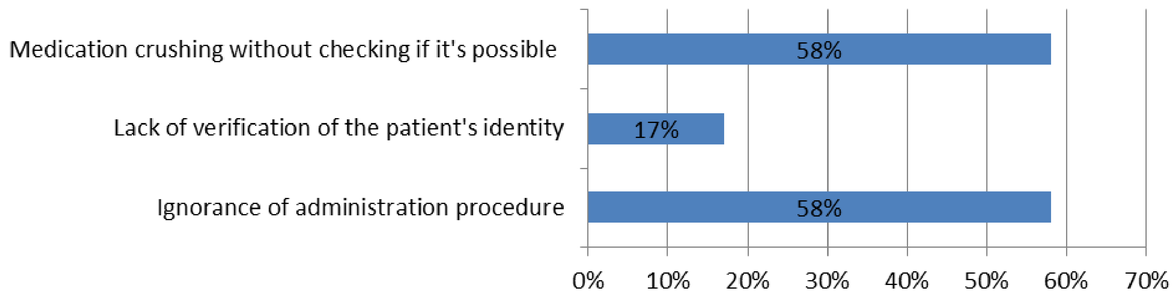


→Validation : not detected errors

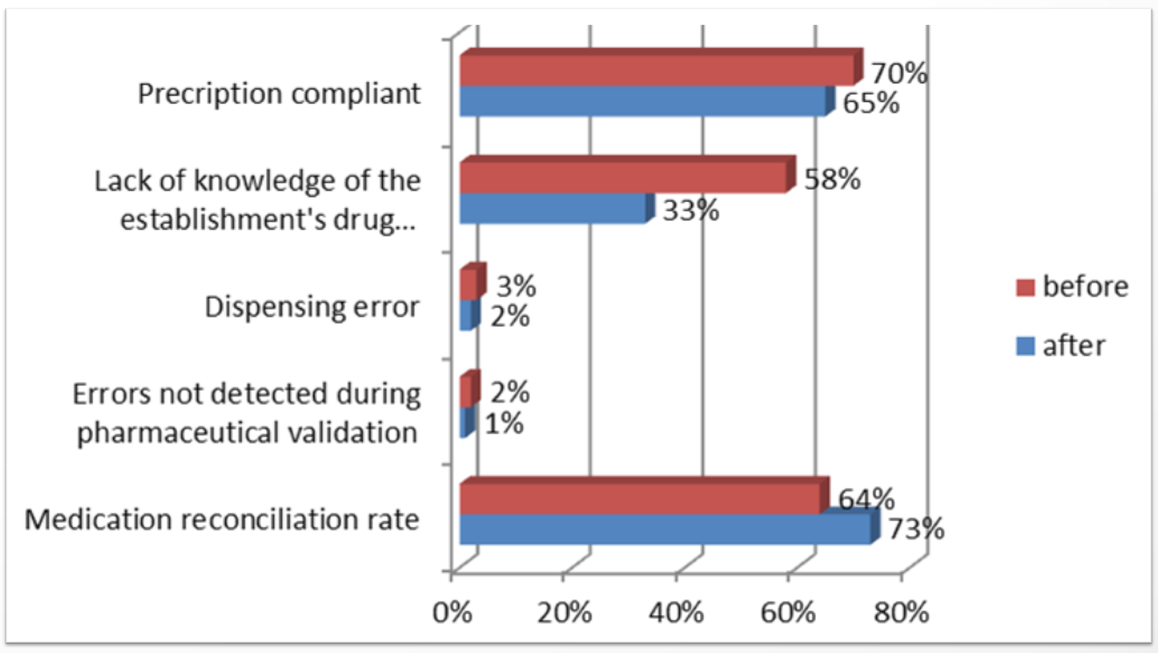


→Dispensation : 2,93% errors detected during nominative dispensation

→Administration detected errors



→Difference between before and after actions taken by pharmacists to reduce medication errors



→Results showed a statistically significant improvement in certain criteria (α 5%) : medication reconciliation rate increased ; errors not detected during pharmaceutical validation ; dispensing error ; lack of knowledge of the establishment's drug administration procedure.

→ Certain criteria have deteriorated: prescription compliant

Conclusion

This study has made it possible to objectify that actions of pharmacists have been beneficial in management of patients. However, we find that actions taken to improve prescription of drugs have not been effective. It would be interesting to set up continuous training for doctors on the use of the prescription software in our establishment.