

Implementing clinical pharmacy on a hepatology ward: First steps



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Background

Patient-centered clinical pharmacy services are still in its early stages in Serbia, despite their well evidenced positive impact worldwide. Studies show that clinical pharmacists are valuable members of healthcare team in improving medication outcomes to patients with liver disease and liver transplant recipients.

Purpose

To assess the results of the first implementation of clinical pharmacy services on the hepatology ward of a tertiary care teaching Hospital in Serbia.

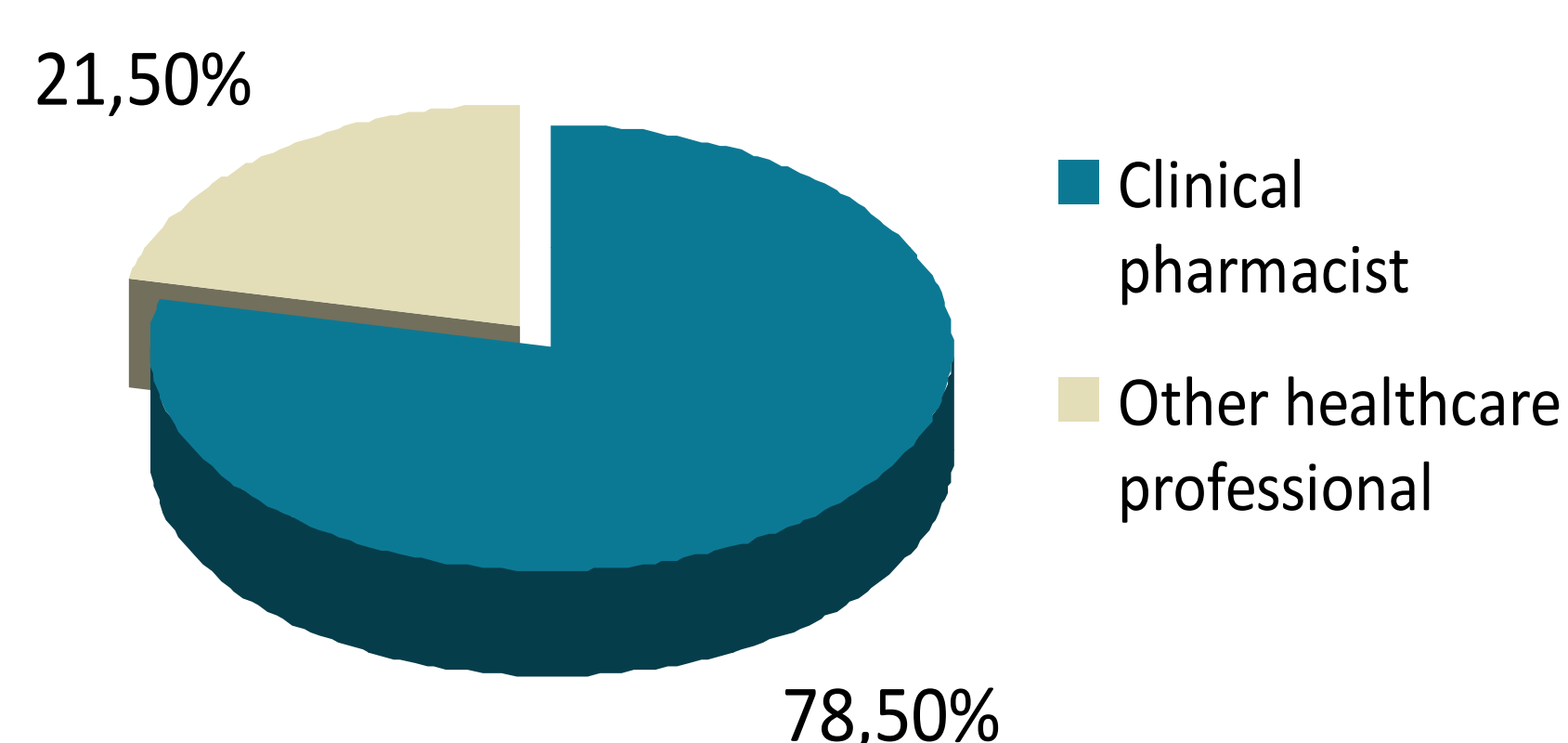
Materials and Method

The prospective observational study was conducted on a hepatology ward from March to July 2014, at Gastroenterology and Hepatology Clinic, Clinical Center of Serbia. The clinical pharmacist evaluated medication use during a 4-hour visit once per week, and made recommendations to the prescribing physician. The interventions to optimize prescribing, were classified according to type and acceptance by the physician.

Results

A total of 107 medication related interventions conducted for 57 patients were recorded.

Initiated interventions



Results cont.

The most frequent drug related problems requiring interventions were as follows:

Table 1: Drug related problems

Drug related problems	
Inccorect dose	14,7%
Inappropriate choice of medicine	11,9%
Adverse drug reaction	10,1
Lack of necessary medication	8,9%
Drug interactions	8,7%
Non-compliance	8,5%
Unnecessary drug therapy	7,9%

The most common type of recommendations provided by a pharmacist were:

Table 2: The most common type of recommendation

Pharmacist recommendations	
Dose adjustment	22,7%
Change medication	15,5%
Discontinue medication	11,9%
Consultation	10,7%
Drug addition	10,3%
Dose schedule change	9,3%
Duration change	9,2%

Acceptance rate by physicians was 87,3%.

Conclusion

Involving a clinical pharmacist in a hepatology team led to clinically significant and embraced optimisation of medicines use. This approach may serve as a baseline and the support for further development of clinical pharmacy in Serbia.

References

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