

Medication use errors and affecting factors in older people: a nursing home example

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study was carried out to determine medication use errors, which pose important problems for older people's health, and the affecting factors.

Materials and methods: The population of this cross-sectional study consisted of older people living in a nursing home in Izmir province (N=666). No sample selection was made in the study, and the study was conducted with 401 older people who voluntarily wanted to participate in the study between May and July 2018. Research data were collected using a questionnaire that was created by reviewing the literature. Number, percentage, mean, and logistic regression analysis were used in the analysis of the data. Statistical significance was accepted as $p < 0.05$ at a 95% confidence interval.

Results: The mean age of the older people included in the study was 74.68 ± 7.00 . Of the older people, 52.1% used 1-3 medications; 39.4% used 4-5

medications; 8.5% used 6 or more medications. The mean number of medications used was 3.62 ± 1.66 . When medication use errors were examined, it was determined that 76.6% of the older people forgot to take their medications, that only 49.1% knew why they used their medications, that 40.8% did not know the name of the medication they used, that 30.3% did not pay attention to take the medication on an empty/full stomach and that 14.9% used overdoses of medications.

Conclusions: As a result of the study, medication use errors of older people were determined as forgetting to take the medication, not knowing why they used the medication, taking overdoses of medications, not taking the medication when feeling good, and not paying attention to the expiry date of the medication used.

Keywords: Medication, medication use, nursing home, older people