

Increasing Biosimilar Knowledge in Health Care Professionals

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OBJECTIVES

- Expand on the knowledge of biosimilars in order to increase their use throughout the health care system.
- Supply health care professionals with the confidence to educate other members of health care as well as patients, on biosimilars as effective and affordable therapies.

BACKGROUND

Biologic medications only account for 2% of prescription drug use within the United States, however, they take up 37% of the total drug spending [1].

The growing cost of biologics is why there is an abbreviated FDA approval pathway for biosimilars, which have no difference when compared to a biologic [2].

With biosimilar products being put out onto the market, there is a lack of knowledge and acceptance in using biosimilars as alternative therapies.

Studies have shown that more efforts should be made in educating on biosimilar treatment to help advance the knowledge on biosimilar usage in clinical practice [3].

Physicians are wary of using biosimilars in place of biologics, mainly because they do not understand that biosimilars are safe and effective treatment options [4].

METHODS



Survey topics

Comfortability educating others

Biosimilar vs. generics

Manufacturing process

Place in therapy

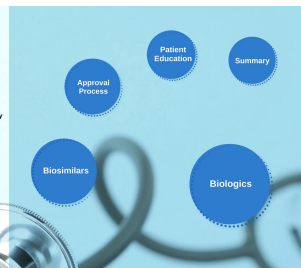
Benefits & side effects

Cost effectiveness

Composition

Biosimilars

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RESULTS

Health care professionals

- 15 pharmacists
- 1 pharmacy technician
- 13 RN
- 3 MD
- 1 APRN
- 2 administrators
- 1 NP
- 1 PA

92% of participants said they felt more comfortable educating others.

The correct answers from the pre-survey to the post-survey, had an average of 34.6% improvement.

Other than one question in the post-survey, 100% of the participants answered every question correctly.

Pre-Survey

- 49% reported not feeling comfortable educating others.
- 45% reported not knowing the composition of biosimilars.
- 61% reported biosimilars must undergo the exact same clinical trials as a biologic.

Post-Survey

- 23% reported that biosimilars must undergo the exact same clinical trials as a biologic.

CONCLUSION

A short but informational session on biosimilars can be useful for increasing the knowledge of these therapies as effective, accessible, and affordable treatment options, and can give health care professionals the confidence to educate others on the subject.

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