



Short communication

INTERNET PHARMACY – POSSIBILITY LEADS TO MISUSE OF MEDICINE AND HAZARDOUS FOR HEALTH

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ABSTRACT

An online pharmacy is an internet-based trader of prescription drugs, and the term encompasses both legitimate and illegitimate pharmacies.

Objectives: Internet Pharmacy (E-Pharmacy) that operate over the internet and sends the order to customer through the mail or shipping companies, sales offer a wealth of benefits beyond those of traditional delivery formats. Unfortunately, there are a number of risks associated with purchasing medicines on the Internet. Some are including minor financial loss while others represent considerable legal and health hazards for the individual customer.

Conclusions: While financial losses for consumers are an ongoing problem, But most of serious effect Unlicensed pharmacist (unregistered pharmacy by national FDA), Lack of way to judge the quality of product, Some illegal online drug store that deal in dangerous contaminated, outdated drug that can lead to dangerous drug interaction.

Keywords: Internet Pharmacy, fake websites, expiry medicine, Pharmacist.

INTRODUCTION

Advancement of e-commerce in India significantly opened an arena to market most of the products which can reach almost everybody. Online pharmacy is one among the products which is about to create a huge demand in upcoming days. Retail pharmacy has so far remained the biggest source of medicines for the Indian population. Remote areas in the country too are benefited with retail pharmacies only. Online pharmacy having lot of lacunas where in India, it can cause some illegal issue like single vendor house selling online medicines, might be they all not from pharmacy educated [1,2]. Indian Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers about the possible risk of buying medicines through online pharmacy. Only educated person can reach

at to know the dangers effect but in rural areas it quite difficult as well impossible because of some of drugs to sale online could put people's health at risk. There are many factors that can cause limitations as well health risk in India [3-6].

1. Unemployment: This is the biggest issue as well limitation of online pharmacy i.e. it may create huge unemployment to Pharmacy graduates, because under a small vendor Online Pharmacy can be operated with one or two educated persons with all others may be workers as non pharmacy graduates who identified medicine box by color, size, packing of the medicine/containers etc.

2. Emergency treatment: At the time emergency to patient or in some life threaten diseases (CHF, Angina pectoris,

Stone pain, Strokes, Problem associated 3rd trimester of pregnant patient etc), online pharmacy fails to operate to send immediately drugs.

3. Counterfeit Drugs and their serious effects: Counterfeit drugs are fake or similar copied products that can be very difficult to identify, these are easily sell by E. Pharmacy. India FDA continuously warns and watching to bogus online vendors who sends drugs with unknown quality or origin. Customers who placed orders over the Internet for one of the following drugs like zolpidem, alprazolam, lorazepam which are comes under Schedule H medicines (can't sell without a doctor's prescription), Instead of receiving ordered medicine, several customers received products containing identified as foreign and similar type versions of haloperidol, a strong antipsychotic drug, as a result, these customers needed emergency medical treatment for symptoms such as difficulty in breathing, muscle spasms, and muscle stiffness-all problems that can occur with haloperidol. Blood and related products require very hygienic conditions to store and pack properly. So it can be danger or life threaten that scheduled drugs can be re-ordered and misused by the consumer.

4. Substances under schedule X/H : According to Drug and Cosmetics act in India schedule X/H medicine cannot sold by without prescription and Written should be preserved at least 2 Years. It is impossible to rouge website that that offer to sell potentially dangerous drugs that have not been checked for safety or effectiveness.

5. Discounted Drugs: Discount on medicine leads expiry or adulterated or misbranded drugs selling via online Pharmacy, may lead to deteriorate approved drug (branded medicines) and might be hazardous to human health.

6. Unfair E. Prescription may be generated to get E-order: E. Prescription might be generated by some dishonest computer specialists, for getting scheduled medicines which may cause addition, risk for health, idiopathic symptoms, adverse side effect on overdose and so many possible danger for life generated by On-line Pharmacy.

7. Anyone can sell medicines by online Pharmacy (Unregistered Pharmacist) if not having rule and regulations for distribution of medicines via the Internet.

Some of websites where online Pharmacy business flourished like:-

1. www.netmeds.com
2. www.medidart.com
3. www.buydrug.in
4. www.mchemist.com

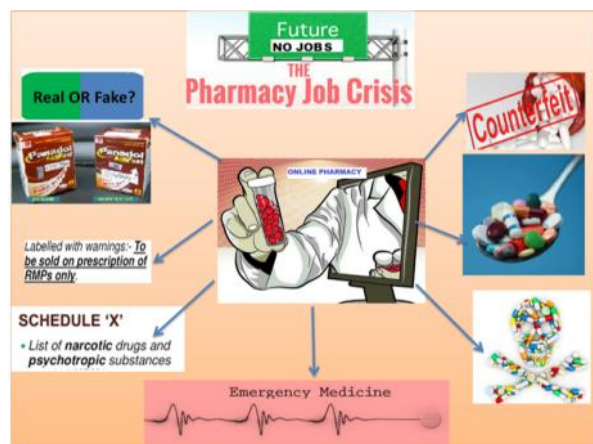


Figure: 1

CONCLUSION: Using public health and econometric evidence, this Short communication shows (Figure -1) that distribution of medicines online is split of very diverse quality, and identifies the factors that affect direct patient health, Unlike fraudulent, 'rogue,' websites, which offer little guarantees and usually sell just a few medicines without prescription, online pharmacies offering insurance coverage due to near expiry, misbrand or Counterfeit. It is shown that, where online pharmacies are allowed to act legally, market forces enhance quality that prevent unhealthy environment related to medicine uses.

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