

Pharmacist

Interview No 6

Translator: he want to make the interview in English.

Interviewer: are you sure? It's okay to make it in Amharic and translate.

Participant: we can do it in the language you want, because you have to get a good information. So we can do it in Amharic.

Translator: okay thank you. What antifungal drugs you have here?

Participant: there is ketoconazole, in what form you want? The cream or General name of the drug?

Translator: we just want the general names of the drug you have here?

Participant: there is ketoconazole, fluconazole, Whitefield's, clotrimazole, griseofulvin, miconazole.

Translator: wich of these drugs people buy at most?

Participant: all of these drugs are often prescribed by the doctors and are bought by people, the drugs had a high turnover.

Interviewer: so they don't need prescription?

Participant: we need a prescription, without prescription, we can't dispense.

Translator: Where do you get these drugs?

Participant: there are private importers, whole sellers, Distributors. We buy the drugs from them.

Interviewer: is that a public or private importing?

Participant: it's a private importing.

Translator: the whole sellers will get from the importers and he said they will buy from the whole sellers.

Translator: what are the challenges regarding the availability, the price and the policy?

Participant: normally we can classify the drugs as a dermatological (external) and systemic. And most of the time the physician's prescribe systemic drugs and that is why the availability of dermatological drugs are lower in the market. The other problem is there are few importers wich import dermatological preparation and especially we get the antifungal drugs in dermatological preparation. And also antifungal drugs are not imported in large amount.

Translator: the supplier focus on other systemic drugs other than antifungal drugs. Also the physician who prescribe the drug focus on other disease other than fungal disease. They give priority for the other drugs rather than antifungals.

Participant: there are essential drugs, which are prescribed most and these will get priority to be imported, because of the limitation of the hard currency.

Interviewer: in your opinion, why they focus on other drug and not on antifungals?

Participant: according to the national drug institute, there is a prioritization. The government give priorities for the essential drugs to be imported, so they think antifungal drugs are not essential since it's dermatological.

Interviewer: so the antifungals are not in the essential list?

Participant: there is an essential drug list, and I also refer that to purchase the drug according to the priorities.

Interviewer: where do you get essential drug list, is it published by the government?

Participant: we do have National drug institute. It is listed and published by the government. The list of antifungals are also found here.

Translator: regarding such like challenges what do you suggest to be improved?

Participant: It's creating awareness to the physician. Since they are concerned.

Interviewer: create awareness of fungal disease or how to treat it?

Participant: also to the policy makers. There are a lot of patients that need antifungal drugs, but there is a high gap between the demand and the supply.

Translator: so don't you assessed antifungal drugs as much as you can?

Participant: I have tried. Because this pharmacy is dependent on the dermatology also, we have to store the drug as much as we can, to cope up the shortage.

Translator: did anyone come to your pharmacy to buy antifungal drugs for their animals?

Participant: no, they come for other drugs like anthelmintic, hypoperatives, [inaudible] and zinc oxide.

Translator: can they get these drugs without prescription?

Participant: some drugs like white field, zinc oxide, [inaudible] are given without prescription. But ketoconazole is given with prescription.

Interviewer: for people coming here to buy antifungal drug, do you think it's expensive for them or cheap?

Participant: it's kind of intermediate there will be high difference when they are coming with brand and generic names. Terbinafine, fluconazole.

Interviewer: do you tend to sell the generic name or the brand ones or both?

Participant: if we have the generic one we motivate them to buy it, if not we will dispense the brand one.

Interviewer: do you have generic for all the drug you have listed?

Participant: yes. I have almost ten generic name.

Interviewer: so the generic are cheaper?

Participant: yes the generic are cheaper. This is terbinafine tablet its 12 birr per tablet and this is fluconazole 150mg, one tab is 55 birr. And the price will vary with 100mg, 200mg.

Interviewer: is there any complaint from the clients?

Translator: the drug is for long time and is there any complain regarding the price?

Participant: the complaint is about the price, because the drug is taken for a long time. The price is high. Some patient will carry the disease because the drug is expensive.

Interviewer: is there any patient complaining the antifungal drugs are not working? Or any resistance to the antifungal?

Participant: first of all we advise them correctly and strictly. Most of the time we believe that prevention methods are better than treatment. If that happened we will tell them to consult their doctors and if they come back we are going to dispense again.

Interviewer: do you know any side effect the treatment (tablet) itself could cause? Do you have to warn the patient about any side effect of the drug?

Participant: yes, especially for those antifungal drugs wich are taken orally, like fluconazole because of its sourness it should be taken with milk. And also some patient have to check their liver function test.

Interviewer: you will send them to the hospital to check liver function test?

Participant: yes, they have to go to the hospital for the checkup and also we will tell them to cut their nail when they are taking the antifungal drug fluconazole or any other, because there is continuous growth of their nail. Especially when they wash their hand, they have to dry it immediately. Because the fungus is sensitive to the moisture and help its growth. I will give these advice.

Interviewer: how do you choose different drugs that you stock to your pharmacy? Do the private companies come and advertise to you? Or how do you choose the different brand you use?

Participant: yes they will come. When they get access to different brand of drug they will visit us. Because there is a demand for the drug here.

Interviewer: is there anything else, you will like to tell us about antifungal medications. Any problems you are having, that we haven't mentioned?

Participant: you have to tell them! Please! Please! Seriously invest on antifungal drugs. Since there are poor people living with the disease, they are extremely poor and can't afford the drug. They live with the disease. Sometime we will dispense the drug for free to those who can't afford. And finally I would like to conclude that you have to tell them to give these antifungal drugs for free to the patients who can't afford. This is not only the problem that affect the poor, but also those who are on the medium line are affected with this. I want to hear the result of your research because of this.