EVALUATION OF DRUG STOCK QUALITY IN HOSPITAL WARD PHARMACIES
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INTRODUCTION

When a global distribution system is used the doses prescribed for the patients are prepared using drugs available from ward stocks. Different factors (such as stockroom ergonomics, stock presentation etc.) play an important role when the drugs are prepared, and can represent a risk factor (latent error) within the drug dispensing process. The object of this study was to validate an evaluation grid (fig.1) used to measure the quality of drug stocks in ward pharmacies within the HUG and then to evaluate the Internal Medicine wards (IMW).

METHOD

- **Validation**: 16 different wards in the HUG were visited by two pharmacists who simultaneously filled in a form allocating points (0.1 or 2 points: maximum 150) concerning the following criteria:
  - ergonomics (stock room)
  - general organisation
  - stock presentation
  - means of control

- **Evaluation**: 12 IMW’s were visited for evaluation by one pharmacist.

RESULTS

![Fig 1. Evaluation grid for stock quality](image1)

![Fig 2. Overall score: the correlation between the scores of pharmacists A and B](image2)

![Fig 3. Score (in%) by criteria for the 12 medicine wards](image3)

- **Validation**: the correlation between the pharmacists A and B was 0.709 (p=0.888) for the overall score (fig.2).
- **Evaluation**: the average quality index was 77/150 (51.3%) ± 8.15 (SD) (min 66, max 88) for the 12 IMW’s (fig.3).

CONCLUSIONS

- The agreement between the results obtained during the evaluation by the two pharmacists permitted the validation of the evaluation grid used to test the stock quality in the wards.
- Even though the wards tested had a similar functional structure certain significant differences were seen and a considerable potential for improvement of these weak points is possible.
- These visits have permitted the establishment of a collaboration between the pharmacists and the nurses with the aim of improving the drug supply processes and the realisation of a simple tool for stock control to increase the awareness of the staff concerning good methods for stocking drugs.
- This form could be used as a routine tool to measure and improve stock quality, with the ultimate aim of reducing the risk of errors in storage, preparation and dispensing of drugs at the ward level.

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