Medication Management Challenges Among Visually Impaired Individuals

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Abstract (300 word limit)

Statement of the Problem: Medication management is a complex process including multiple activities(1) in order to improve the patient safety(2) and visual impairment makes this, two or three times more complicated.(3, 4) On the other hand, given the fact that population aging is a global phenomenon and according to increasing prevalence of visual impairment among older adults(5), medication nonadherence caused by low vision is an important problem. This review study is performed to present an illustration of challenges experienced by visually impaired people to help the researchers, developers and stakeholders, assist this community. **Methodology & Theoretical Orientation** Five electronic databases (PubMed, ScienceDirect, Scopus, Embase and Web of Science) were searched for papers about medication management and visual impairment without time limitation. After screening 200 abstracts, irrelevant, duplicate and the conference abstracts which the full text of them was unavailable, were eliminated and 12 papers were included in a descriptive study. **Findings:** Current study demonstrates that the challenges that pointed out in the papers can be classified in three main classes: Medication Identification Difficulties, Medication Administration problems and Inaccessibility of Medication Information, which causes medication nonadherence. On the other hand, lack of education programs and inaccessibility of medication information and incompatibility of existed technologies and facilities, with visually impaired people needs, are barriers to solving these problems. **Conclusion & Significance:** According to the importance of increasing the medication adherence while preserving the visually impaired independent living, the necessity of removing barriers to independent medication adherence is obvious. Therefore developing the medical technologies and facilities considering their limitations and the pointed out challenges and encouraging the policy makers in order to provide an accessible format of data for them in pharmaceutical companies and educating them about medication management strategies can promote the ability of independent medication management among visually impaired people.

Image

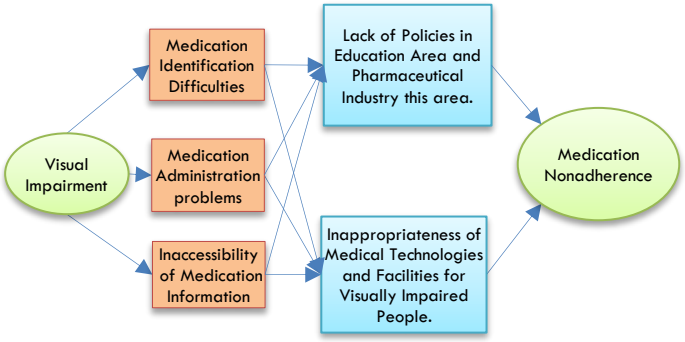


Figure 1: The way that visual impairment causes medication nonadherence by the challenges and the situation.

Recent Publications (minimum 5)

1. Garrard J, Harms S, Hanlon J, editors. Medication management of community based elderly people in managed care organizations. How Managed Care Can Help Older Persons Live Well With Chronic Conditions Conference, Washington, DC; 1998.
2. Heitkamp R. Getting started with patient-centered medical home and NCQA PCMH recognition: A resource for primary care practices. SIU School of Medicine[Report] Retrieved from http://www icahn org/files/Recommended_Links/Getting_started_with_PCMH_J uly_2013 pdf. 2013.
3. McCann RM, Jackson AJ, Stevenson M, Dempster M, McElnay JC, Cupples ME. Help needed in medication self-management for people with visual impairment: case–control study. Br J Gen Pract. 2012;62(601):e530-e7.
4. Statistics NCfH. Plan and Operation of the Third National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey, 1988-94. Series 1: programs and collection procedures. Vital Health Stat 1. 1994;32:1-407.
5. Khalaj M, Barikani A, Ghasemi H. Eye disorders in old people. Global journal of health science. 2013;5(1):79.



Biography (150 word limit)

Kiana Farhadyar is studying medical informatics in Tehran University of Medical Sciences and received her bachelor's degree in computer software engineering at Shahid Beheshti University in Iran. She teaches chess to visually impaired individuals since 2011 and is acquainted with the challenges faced by them. She is passionate to improve their quality of life with increasing their participation in social activities, independent living and helping them in their education.

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