INTRODUCTION

Ubiquity of Pain
- Approximately 100 million Americans live with chronic pain
- An additional 50 million Americans undergo surgical procedures where perioperative pain is expected
- Opioid prescribing and opioid-related deaths have quadrupled since 1999

Pharmacist Role in Pain Management
- There are approximately 295,000 employed pharmacists in the United States as of May 2015
- Pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare provider and are uniquely positioned to play a vital role in pain management and opioid risk mitigation strategies

Education is Key
- It is imperative that new pharmacy graduates are equipped with the proper clinical skills and knowledge in pain management to provide safe and effective direct patient care from both a treatment and a risk mitigation standpoint
- Specialty post-graduate training is limited as there are currently only 13 pharmacy residencies in pain and palliative care
- Comprehensive pain management education in PharmD curricula is vital given the rampant use, abuse, and misuse of pain medications in the United States

OBJECTIVE

Survey student and new pharmacist practitioners to gather perceptions regarding their pain management education in pharmacy school including:
- Quality and quantity of pain education
- Hours of instruction spent on pain education
- Basic knowledge and levels of comfort with basic pain management principles
- Opioid risk mitigation education

METHODS

- Electronic survey created using Google Forms on March 13, 2016
- Survey included:
  - Hours in curriculum spent on pain risk stratification, urine drug screen interpretation, post-surgical pain management and treatment of cancer and non-cancer pain
  - Comfort level and level of understanding of topics listed above
  - Preferred method of opioid conversion
- Link to the survey provided via social media platforms (ie: Facebook, Twitter) and via e-mail lists and message boards
- Participation required completion of didactic pharmacy training
- Target audience was PharmD graduates of 2014-2016
- Survey closed on April 20, 2016 - 137 responses collected

RESULTS

Pain Elective Offered At School?

- 24 (17.5%) graduated in 2014
- 51 (37.2%) graduated in 2015
- 62 (45.3%) will graduate in 2016
- 106 (77.4%) EST
- 2 (1.5%) MST
- 7 (5.1%) PST
- 51 (37.2%) EST
- 54 (40.4%) Other

Courses/Modules where pain management was taught

- 113 (82.5%) No
- 16 (11.7%) Not Sure
- 8 (5.8%) Yes

Time Spent on Risk Stratification

- 77% 2 or more hours total
- 12% 1-2 hours total
- 10% 0 hours total
- 1% 3-4 hours total
- 5% 4+ hours total

Number of Didactic Hours Estimating Pain Education

- 40% 2 hours total
- 20% 3+ hours total
- 20% 0-1 hours total
- 20% 2-3 hours total

PharmD graduates of 2014-2016

- Are pharmacists receiving adequate pain management training relative to other subjects?
  - 8 (5.8%) Yes
  - 113 (82.5%) No
  - 16 (11.7%) Not Sure

SOURCES

DISCUSSIONS

Preliminary survey results show that new pharmacist practitioners and current student pharmacists feel that they received inadequate comprehensive pain management education in pharmacy school

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Redistribute survey via state and national pharmacy organizations
- Capture wider audience
- Share results with pharmacy schools

REFERENCES

1. Institute of Medicine Report from the Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care, and Education: Wh Kennedy L, Rock N, eds. Relieving Pain in America, A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education and Research. The National Academies Press, 2011