ERRONEOUS DRUG CONSUMPTION AMONG OLDER PATIENTS
Y. Bar Dayan¹, T. Shotashvily², M. Boaz³, J. Wainstein⁴; A. Halabe⁵
¹Diabetes Unit, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Wolfson Medical Center, Tel Aviv University, Israel ²Department of Medicine, Wolfson Medical Center, Israel ³Epidemiology and Research Unit, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Wolfson Medical Center, Tel Aviv University, Israel ⁴Diabetes Unit, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Wolfson Medical Center, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Background: Generic drugs are used worldwide owing to their cost-effectiveness. However, the high variety of bioequivalent generic drugs found in the marketplace may increases the complexity and frequency of mistakes in drug consumption. In the current study, we evaluate the prevalence of erroneous drug consumption. Method: Six hundred hospitalized patients mean age of 74.4±11.4 recruited to participate in the study after giving their informed consent. Participants completed a questionnaire designed to provide information on their regular medication; the list obtained was compared to the medication prescribed by their primary care physician; finally they were requested to provide a sample of the actual medication they were taking daily. Results: Errors in drug consumption were found in 13 cases (2.17%) and in most involved the consumption of duplicated drugs. In six cases, patients consumed different drugs from the same therapeutic family (46.1%), in five cases patients were taking chemically similar medications with different brand names (38.5%), and in two cases patients consumed different drugs from various therapeutic families to treat the same medical condition (15.4%). In six cases (46.2%) drugs were taken to treat hypertension. Ten cases had the potential to cause serious adverse drug events (76.9%). More errors were found significantly in female patients, elderly patients and in those consuming a large number of medications. Conclusion: Bioequivalent generic drugs increase the complexity and frequency of mistakes in drug consumption. Variances in names, colors, shapes and sizes cause confusion, resulting in errors, some of which have the potential to cause adverse effects.