

Abstract

A cross-sectional study explores Libyan patients' knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding the storage and disposal of unused medications. In light of increasing concerns about medication wastage and its environmental and public health implications, the study aimed to assess patient awareness and identify behavioral patterns contributing to pharmaceutical waste. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire distributed among 114 adult patients across different regions in Libya. The findings revealed high awareness of improper disposal's environmental and health impacts, yet knowledge of proper disposal methods and return policies was limited. A significant proportion of participants reported retaining unused medications for future use or discarding them in household trash, while only a minority utilized safe disposal options. Key barriers included a lack of national guidelines, inadequate public education, and limited access to return programs. The study highlights the urgent need for targeted awareness campaigns, structured disposal systems, and pharmacist-led educational interventions to promote responsible medication management in Libya.