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# Extemporaneous Formulations – Communication between pharmacists and physicians in “Hautapotheke”-Pharmacies

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## Introduction:

Due to the pharmacy practice order in 2012, the requirements for prescribing and manufacturing extemporaneous formulations have increased. Magistral formulations should be favored over individual formulations. There is a high need for a good cooperation between pharmacists and physicians to gain optimal results.

In Germany, about 8 million extemporaneous formulations compounded by pharmacists for topical therapy are produced yearly. To evaluate the requirements on this topic in pharmacies, we created a standardized questionnaire sent to every pharmacy which is part of the network “hautapotheke.de“ by the “Gesellschaft für Dermopharmazie e.V.”.

## Methods:

The questionnaire with 16 questions was sent out to 140 “hautapotheke”-pharmacies in Germany: 3 questions to answer with free text, 7 to answer by ticking boxes and 6 - a combination of both question-types.

## Results:

Overall, 41 of 140 (29,3%) questionnaires were returned via fax, E-Mail or postal way. 33 (82,5%) stated, that extemporaneous formulations are an “important therapeutic alternative” in daily practice. None of the participants think that extemporaneous formulations are “obsolete”. Every second (n=22 (55%)) complained about “the excessive work with poor reward”. 15 (37,5%) confirmed, that the extemporaneous formulations are “necessary but not always practicable”.

65% of all extemporaneous formulations are prescribed without following any magistral standards, 13% are “magistral formulations exclusive NRF” and 20% are formulations compounded according to the NRF.

To evaluate the cooperation, the participants were asked to state on the communication practice between pharmacists and physicians concerning the topic “extemporaneous compositions”. Only 5 (12,2%) stated “very constructive”. The majority (24; 58,5%) think that the communication is “associated with anger” and that the communication is “constructive, but too costly in terms of times”(23; 56%). Interestingly 12 (29%) complained that “the communication is not taking place or takes place on a too small scale”.



Conclusion:

Considering our findings, extemporaneous formulations are necessary and helpful tools in treating patients with dermatological diseases. Beside the improvement of communication between physicians and pharmacists, the prescription behavior should change by increasing prescriptions with magistral extemporaneous formulations. Further research should explore and compare the questionnaires with physicians in Germany.

