

Workshop

Herbal medicines and cancer patients' behaviour: pharmacological and psychological issues

As part of this workshop, we will address the topic of natural therapies in cancer patients. Definitions and statistics will be presented to illustrate the extent of natural product use among these vulnerable patients. We will provide examples of the most commonly used plants, including the specific parts (leaves, stems, or roots) involved in their preparations. We will show the incidence of concurrent complementary alternative medicine (CAM) use among cancer patients in our countries and display a web-base application that we use to collect the data to track use of CAM. Additionally, we will explore concrete examples of interactions between these natural therapies and chemotherapy in oncology, as such interactions can compromise the effectiveness of chemotherapy, potentially leading to relapse. The workshop will conclude with a discussion on the psychological profile of these patients, focusing on how pharmacists should approach this patient population and the appropriate stances to ensure the safe use of medicinal plants without undermining the efficacy of prescribed chemotherapies.

The second part of the workshop will be dedicated to three clinical cases, including the management of pharmaceutical consultations with these patients, where and how to find information on drug-natural therapy interaction risks, and how to conduct therapeutic education sessions to help patients optimally manage their natural therapies.