Students' perception of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in pharmacy school

Abstract

Introduction: The increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) among college students, particularly in pharmacy education, raises ethical concerns and prompts debates on responsible usage. A survey reveals that 43% of students have used AI applications, with universities struggling with whether such use constitutes as cheating.[1] In healthcare, AI shows promise, with professionals acknowledging its potential to reduce workload and enhance training. However, concerns persist, including accuracy issues, algorithmic bias, and the lack of formal AI education in pharmacy schools. Suggestions include incorporating AI fundamentals into pharmacy curriculum and recognizing AI's evolving role in pharmacy. The study aims to understand pharmacy students' perspectives to better prepare for AI integration in future curricula.

Methods: This study used a 14-question survey distributed among second, third, and fourth-year pharmacy students at SIUE, North Dakota State University, University of Wyoming, and Union University. Data will be presented as percentages and counts.

Results: Across the four institutions, 171 responses were analyzed. Demographic information collected was the university attended, class identification (P2, P3, P4), and the age range. Most students who responded were in their fourth year (45%). Regarding awareness and use of AI, 43% were unaware of the limitations of AI tools. 45% of respondents had used AI tools to complete assignments, while 42% considered it academic dishonesty. 56% believed AI tools could be used ethically. Student perspectives on AI were varied, with concerns of AI creating superior results but agreement that it will be integral to pharmacy education and future practice.

Conclusions: This study highlights the prevalence of AI usage among pharmacy students. Despite limited education on AI, students utilized AI tools for various tasks. There's a mixed perspective on AI's role in education and healthcare, with concerns about ethics and effectiveness. Incorporating AI education in pharmacy programs is crucial. The study's limitations include varying response rates and a focus on fourth-year students, indicating the need for further research on AI's role in pharmacy education.