

**AWARENESS OF PHARMACOVIGILANCE AMONG GROUP OF  
AYURVEDA PHYSICIANS ENROLLED IN POSTGRADUATE STUDIES  
AT INSTITUTE OF INDIGENOUS MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

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Pharmacovigilance is the study of the safety of drugs under the practical conditions of clinical usage in large communities. The objective of the study was to assess the pharmacovigilance awareness among the Ayurveda physicians who enrolled in postgraduate studies at Institute of Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka. A questionnaire which was suitable for assessing the basic knowledge, attitude and the practice of pharmacovigilance was designed and submitted among group of Ayurveda physicians (n= 30) who participated for postgraduate studies. Thirty percent (30%) of the subjects knew the term pharmacovigilance, 20% were aware of the unavailability of the National Pharmacovigilance programme for Ayurveda and Traditional Medicine in Sri Lanka, 70% believe that Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) may occur from Ayurveda medicine, 60% indicated that most labeled counterfeit drugs, inappropriate use and standardization problems as the most important causes of ADRs associated with Ayurvedic drugs, 70% physicians accepted their ignorance about pharmacovigilance and admitted that there was a need for better training of this subject and 90% admitted that there should be a national pharmacovigilance programme for Ayurveda medicines in Sri Lanka. We strongly suggest that there is an urgent need for a regular training and to introduce a ADRs reporting system among the Ayurveda physicians. Also systematic pharmacovigilance programme is essential to build up reliable information on the safety and effective practices of Ayurveda medicine in Sri Lanka.