

Comprehensive medication reviews in Swedish hospitals: what does the patient have to say?

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Background

Medication Reviews Bridging Healthcare (MedBridge) is a randomised controlled trial (RCT) studying the impact of comprehensive medication reviews, including follow-up telephone calls after hospital discharge, by ward-based pharmacists on older patients' health-related outcomes [1]. Trials with complex interventions are often criticised because of a lack of understanding of the context, implementation and mechanism of action [2]. Therefore, process evaluations of such trials are highly recommended to provide detailed understanding of patients' experiences [2].

Results

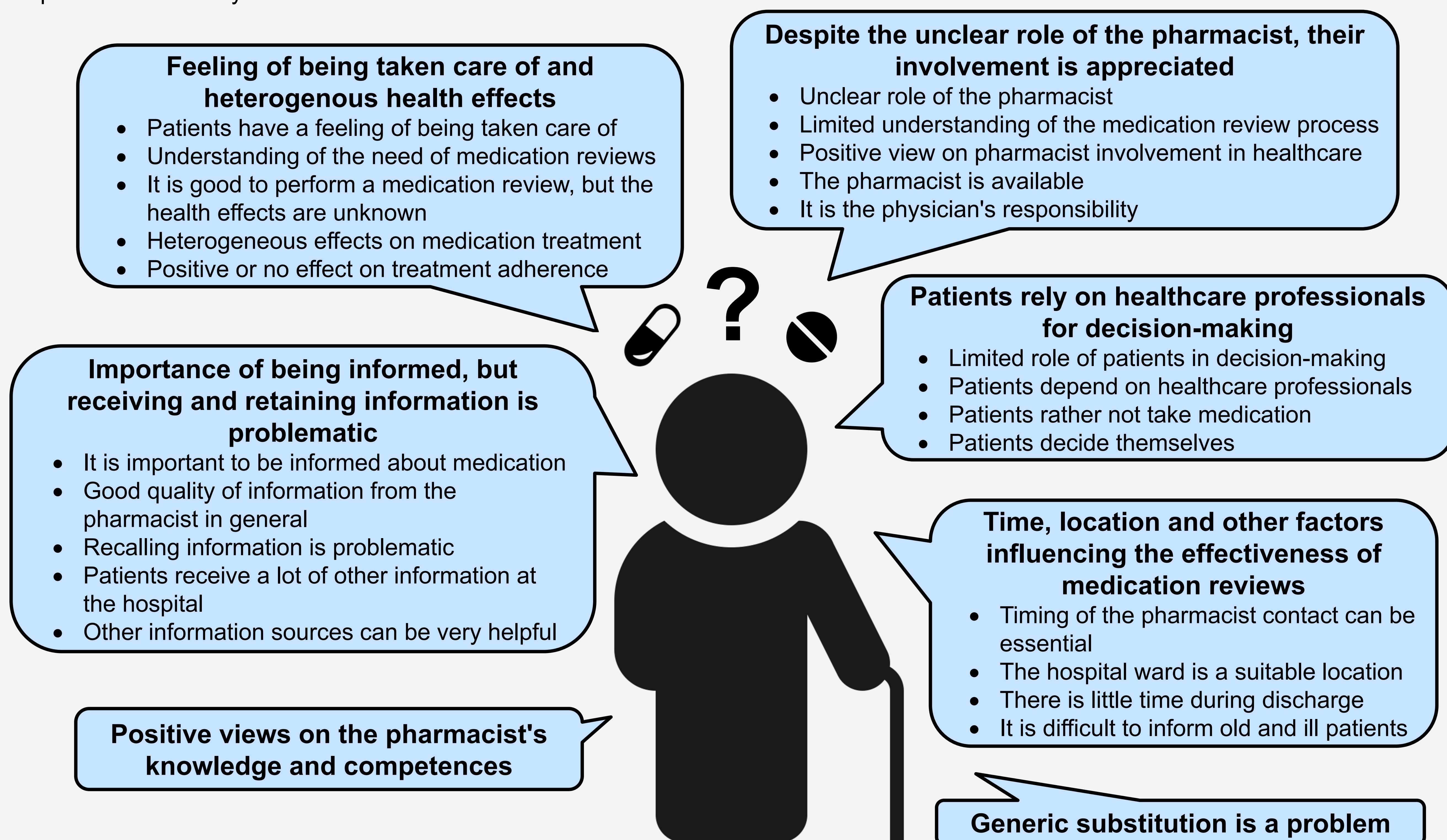
In general, the patients' experiences and views were positive. Seven key themes were identified:

Objective

To explore older patients' experiences with and views on comprehensive medication reviews and follow-up telephone calls by clinical pharmacists within an RCT.

Methods

We conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews with fifteen patients (66-94 years; 7 male, 8 female) from four hospitals in Sweden, all of whom participated in the MedBridge trial. Discussion topics included communication, information, decision-making, and effects on the patient. Interviews took place after discharge, were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and thematically analysed using a framework approach.



Conclusion

Although older patients generally have positive experiences with and views on comprehensive medication reviews and follow-up telephone calls, some factors may negatively impact the effects of these interventions. Future initiatives on comprehensive medication reviews by clinical pharmacists should address these negative factors and utilize the positive views.

References

[1] Kempen TGH, et al. Medication Reviews Bridging Healthcare (MedBridge): Study protocol for a pragmatic cluster-randomised crossover trial. *Contemp Clin Trials*. 2017;Jul 21;61:126-132.

[2] Moore GF, et al. Process evaluation of complex interventions: Medical Research Council guidance. *BMJ*. 2015 Mar 19;350:h1258.