

円形錠剤に関する形状調査と患者意識調査

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Investigation of the shape of circular Tablets and survey of patient preference with regard to usage

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Abstract

Objective: To determine whether the shape of the tablet on the market in Japan fit the needs from the patients.

Methods: We investigated the shape (diameter, weight, thickness, color and a secant line) of the 1,177 circular tablets from the information of the package inserts collected via the Internet. Then to compare this result, the questionnaire survey about the preference of a shape and a color was carried out among 2,498 patients and 296 students.

Results: The average diameter, weight and thickness of tablets were 7.70mm, 192.1mg and 3.54mm, respectively. But in questionnaire, patients chose the tablet of 5~6mm in diameter as the tablet which they feel easy to handle.

Conclusion: These results suggested that the patients prefer a tablet of a smaller diameter to the present tablet on the market. For successful drug therapy and the improvement of medication compliance, it is necessary that the patients' preference is reflected on the form of medicines.

Key words: questionnaire survey; medication compliance; the handling of tablets; the shape of tablets; diameter;