

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**GERIATRIC PHARMACOTHERAPY: PERCEPTIONS AMONG  
UiTM FINAL YEAR PHARMACY STUDENTS**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>PAGE</b>
TITLE PAGE	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i.
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii.
LIST OF TABLES	iv.
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	v.
ABSTRACT	vi.
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of study	1
1.2 Objective of study	4
1.3 Hypothesis	4
1.4 Problem statement	4
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 Introduction	5
2.2 Prevalence of inappropriate medication among elderly	6
2.3 Perception of pharmacists to geriatric patients	10
2.4 Pharmacy curriculum for geriatric pharmacotherapy	11
2.5 Pharmacokinetic changes in geriatric patients	12
2.6 Enhancing knowledge in geriatric pharmacotherapy	13

## **ABSTRACT**

With the aging of the Malaysia population, it is increasingly important for health professionals to understand how drug therapy principles for older adults may be different from those applied in younger adults. Just as medications can be metabolized and behave differently in children than in adults, so can medications act differently in older adults. This is especially the case in the frail elderly, those adults above the age of 65.

Despite the importance of geriatrics, most health professional training programs, including those in pharmacy, lack adequate emphasis on geriatrics and the use of medications in older adults. The purpose of this research is to investigate Malaysian future pharmacists' perception in geriatric pharmacy aspects and to study the status of current pharmacy education content in current pharmacy curricula.

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### **1.1 Background of study**

The elderly population is increasing and composed of a huge percentage of the world population. The elderly are major recipient of medications due to multiple co-morbidities. Compared to younger adults, the elderly patients have a fourfold higher chances in developing adverse reaction due to multiple medical co-morbidities, polypharmacy age-related physiological changes that affect drug pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamic responses. In general, pharmacists need to have sufficient knowledge in geriatric medication issues in order to be confident in suggesting best appropriate treatment for the elderly.

Today, inappropriate prescribing for the elderly is considered a major public health problem, given its association with morbidity and mortality and in view of health service costs resulting from adverse reactions. Inappropriate medication use is a major patient safety concern, especially for the elderly population. There is an increasing evidence of medicines related issues such as inappropriate prescribing