

A Retrospective Analysis of Oncology-Focused Pharmacy Specialization Theses in Türkiye



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Background

Clinical pharmacy specialization offers pharmacists the opportunity to develop skills essential for direct patient care, particularly in high-complexity areas such as oncology. Türkiye formally introduced the Pharmacy Specialization Exam (Eczacılıkta Uzmanlık Sınavı-EUS) in 2017. Despite the field's growth, limited data exist on the academic studies conducted as part of this specialization.

Methods

This was a retrospective descriptive study. Theses published between 2020 and 2024 from the Turkish Council of Higher Education's National Thesis Center (1) were examined using the keywords: "clinical pharmacy," "oncology pharmacy," "pharmaceutical care," and "pharmacy specialization."

Table 1. Characteristics of the theses

Institution	Setting	Population	Study design	Cancer types	Main topics
Hacettepe University	Outpatient	Geriatric	Prospective	Solid tumors	Assessment of Treatment Complexity
Ege University	Inpatient (BMT)	Pediatric	Retrospective	BMT	Compliance with International Oncology Guidelines
Erciyes University	Inpatient (BMT)	Adults	Retrospective	BMT	Evaluation of Drug–Drug Interactions
Ege University	Outpatient	Adults	Retrospective	Hematological cancers	Monitoring of Treatment Adherence
Gazi University	Outpatient	Adults	Prospective	Solid tumors	Therapeutic Drug Monitoring
İnönü University	Inpatient	Adults	Prospective	Hematological cancers	Evaluation of Drug–Drug Interactions
Marmara University	Inpatient	Pediatric	Prospective	Solid tumors/Hematological cancers	Identification and Management of Drug–Related Problems

BMT: Bone marrow transplantation

Discussion

The reviewed theses reflect the increasing academic and clinical importance of oncology pharmacy in Türkiye. The findings highlight a strong orientation toward patient safety, pharmaceutical care optimization, and enhanced clinical involvement of pharmacists. The integration of such research into oncology practice could significantly contribute to improving treatment outcomes.

Results / Conclusion

- A total of seven theses met the inclusion criteria.
- Key study topics included treatment complexity, drug-drug interactions, compliance with international oncology protocols, treatment adherence, and therapeutic drug monitoring (Table 1).
- The total number of identified drug-related problems was 376, with 282 interventions reported. Intervention acceptance rates ranged from 83% to 100% ($p < 0.05$).
- Research was primarily conducted in adult chemotherapy units, and the studies were affiliated with six institutions (Table 1).

Reference(s)

1. Turkish Council of Higher Education – National Thesis Center. (<https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/giris.jsp>, Accessed date: 01.01.2025)

