

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Overall, this study revealed that the quality of uncoated aspirin tablets in Phnom Penh city is a serious problem. There are only 6 of 96 samples (6.25%) reached standard criteria. All these 6 samples passed were collected from legal drugstores. Most of the aspirin tablets failed dissolution test, 60 of 66 samples (90.9%) tested. 33 of 96 samples (34.38%) failed friability test, 16 of 96 samples (16.67%) failed disintegration test, 15 of 96 samples (15.63%) failed percent labeled amount, 2 of 96 samples (2.08%) failed hardness test, 1 of 96 samples (1.04%) failed weight variation test. Undoubtedly, the vast majority of the samples in this study (90 of 96, 93.75%) did not meet the standard requirements. Compared with a study carried out in Cambodia in 1997 (Giminez *et al.*, 1997), where 36 of 128 (28.125%) of anti-infective drugs analyzed were substandard, the finding from our study posed a more serious situation concerning quality of the drugs.

This study has important applications for the Cambodian government on the following issue:

The control of imported drugs: This study showed that aspirin tablets imported from different countries were of different quality. Since most of the drugs utilized in the country are imported (The Committee for Research and Study on Counterfeit Drugs, 2001), strict investigation of imported drugs before they can enter the distribution system is highly important.

The condition of the drugstores: Poor storage condition leads to degradation of the medication, sometimes to the extent that it could harm the consumer. We found that most drugstores in our sample still need much improvement in terms of the storage condition. A countrywide surveillance and the implementation of law enforcement regarding the condition of drugstores are crucial.

Training of health professionals and/or sellers in the drugstores: We found that drugstore personnel with professional training such as pharmacists and nurses performed far better than their lay personnel counterparts for their better knowledge in

pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics. The shortage of professional personnel in the country may hinder the attempt to fill only personnel with professional training in every drugstore. Therefore, Cambodian government should consider training the lay sellers who are practicing in these outlets to better serve the community.

Consumer education: Consumers should have the rights to protect themselves from harms. Attempts should be made to educate the people to be able to protect themselves from dangerous drugs.

