Table 2 **Syrian pharmacists' knowledge of basic concepts of pharmacovigilance, 2013–2014**

Question	Correct answer No./total valid answers (%)			Incorrect answer No./total valid answers (%)		
	City	Country	Total	City	Country	Total
What is an ADR? Harmful effects which occur when a drug is used in the usual dose. Unexpected responses to a drug when it is used at a higher dose. Harmful effects which occur when the patient is taking a drug but it is not necessarily related to the drug. None of the above.	148/215 (68.2)	322/438 (73.5)	471/653 (72.1) *P* = 0.435	67/215 (31.2)	116/438 (26.5)	182/653 (27.9)
Which statement regarding ADRs is correct? ADRs are always preventable. ADRs are preventable to some extent. ADRs are not preventable at all. ADRs refer only to the serious harmful effects of drugs.	152/217 (70)	371/439 (84.5)	523/656 (79.7) *P* = 0.727	65/217 (30)	68/419 (15.5)	133/656 (20.3)
What is pharmacovigilance? The skills required by each practising pharmacist to provide a patient-centred pharmaceutical care. The science and activities related to the detection, assessment, understanding, and prevention of adverse reactions or any other drug-related problems. The monitoring activities conducted by the government to assure the availability and accessibility of pharmaceutical preparations. The scientific discipline that identifies, measures, and compares the costs and consequences of drug therapy to healthcare systems and society.	14/212 (6.6)	159/431 (36.9)	173/643 (26.9) *P* = 0.003	198/212 (93.4)	280/431 (63.8)	470/643 (73.1)
The difference between ADR and ADE is: An ADE is a special type of ADR in which a causative relationship between the drug and the reaction can be shown. An ADE is an adverse outcome that occurs while a patient is taking a drug, but is not necessarily attributable to it, while the ADR is a necessarily attributed to the drug provided. An ADE is an expected outcome that occurs while the patient is taking a drug, while the ADR is always an unexpected outcome of the drugs. There is no difference between the terms.	19/215 (8.8)	54/434 (12.4)	73/649 (11.2) *P* = 0.664	196/215 (91.2)	380/434 (87.6)	576/649 (88.8)
How is medication errors related to adverse drug reactions and adverse drug events? Not related. ADRs can be caused by medication errors. ADEs can be caused by medication errors. Both ADRs and ADEs can be caused by medication errors.	18/215 (8.4)	58/434 (13.4)	76/649 (11.7) *P* = 0.532	197/215 (91.6)	376/434 (86.6)	573/649 (88.3)

ADR = adverse drug reaction.