RESULTS
- Out of 538 cases reviewed, 12.3% of hospital admissions were identified to be due to drug induced effects (n=66).
- 21 cases of drug induced effect admissions were due to antihypertensive medications, 15 cases were due to psychiatric drugs and 9 cases were due to diabetic drugs.
- The 70-89 year group was the most common age group presenting drug induced effects.
- 45 cases were classified as being due to overdose toxicity and side effects. This classification showed prominence in all age groups except in the ‘less than 49 age group’ where accidental and suicidal ingestion was the main classification.
- All pharmacists (n=4) and two of the physicians marked at least one case in the risk assessment exercise with a score of 15 or more indicating the need for immediate action.
- Paired sample t-test showed that there was no statistical significance between the evaluations of the physicians and pharmacists.

CONCLUSION
It was found that three quarters of hospital admissions, resulting from drug induced effects, were preventable. The measures that were identified by the study to help reduce drug induced effect hospital admissions were a centralised computer system, health smart card, education and regular follow ups. Since the paired sample t-test showed compliance between the physicians’ and pharmacists’ evaluations, interdisciplinary collaboration could further contribute towards mitigating risks, thereby improving patient safety.

References