RESULTS

A total of 20 patients participated in the study. When considering compliance to monitoring and laboratory investigations, nineteen patients were compliant. The most common side effect mentioned by patients (n=6) was liver failure. When asked if they recall their baseline monitoring, 10 patients were aware that they were tested for Hepatitis B and C. Nineteen patients were aware that liver and kidney function tests together with a full blood count formed part of the baseline monitoring tests. Seventeen patients inform their general practitioner that they are on methotrexate and 9 patients inform the pharmacist of their methotrexate treatment when getting other medications. Eight patients reported they rarely miss the dose. The most common reason for non-compliance was forgetfulness (n=3). When asked of the subsequent actions of forgetfulness, two out of the 3 patients, took the dose as soon as they remembered.

CONCLUSION

Routine education is required in order to ensure enhanced compliance to monitoring needs as well as prescribed medications especially when the patients are receiving their medications from a community pharmacy and are attending for monitoring at the secondary care clinic. Most of the patients were compliant with treatment and were aware of the tests required for monitoring. The booklet developed was intended to document patient monitoring and be used as a means to transmit information to the community pharmacist.

References:
2. Zammit L. Compliance Issues in Hypertensive Care [project]. Msida (Malta):University of Malta; 2005