



Number of drug classes taken per day may be used to access comorbidity burden in older inpatients: A pilot cross-sectional study

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Titre	Number of drug classes taken per day may be used to access comorbidity burden in older inpatients: A pilot cross-sectional study
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Auteur	de Decker, Laure [1], Launay, C. [2], Annweiler, Cédric [3], Beauchet, Olivier [4]
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Résumé en anglais	<p>Cumulative Illness Rating Scale (CIRS) remains difficult to use in older patients, especially because of a possible memory bias while declaring a chronic disease among patients with cognitive disorders. Because acute and chronic diseases are usually treated with drugs, we hypothesized that the number of drug classes taken per day could be a surrogate measure of comorbidity burden and, thus, could be positively associated with the CIRS-G score. The aim of this study was to determine whether the CIRS-G score was associated with the number of drug classes taken per day by older inpatients in a geriatric acute care unit. Based on cross-sectional design, 324 older inpatients (85.3 ± 6.4 years, 63.3% female) were prospectively included in this study. Number of drug classes daily taken was recorded using the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification (ATCC) and the CIRS-G score was also calculated. Among studied older inpatients, the mean CIRS-G score was 8.6 ± 3.6 and the mean number of drug classes daily taken was 7.0 ± 3.7. The linear regressions showed that only the number of drug classes daily taken was significantly and positively associated with the CIRS-G score (coefficient of regression $\beta = 0.317$ for unadjusted model, $\beta = 0.304$ for fully adjusted model and $\beta = 0.317$ for backward model with all P-values < 0.001). Our findings show that there is a direct association between the CIRS-G score and the number of drugs classes daily taken among the studied sample of older inpatients.</p>
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- [3] <http://okina.univ-angers.fr/cedric.annweiler/publications>
- [4] <http://okina.univ-angers.fr/o.beauchet/publications>
- [5] <http://okina.univ-angers.fr/publications/ua10051>
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