Abstracts

Health care utilization and costs among women with female sexual dysfunction (FSD) and hypotensive sexual desire disorder (HSDD)

Alprazolam is a frequently prescribed benzodiazepine associated with abuse and misuse that can lead to fatalities. This study's aims were to: 1) describe the use and costs of alprazolam in a real-world clinical setting; 2) determine the association between the use of hypnotics/antipsychotics for these conditions and the use of antidepressants in real-world clinical settings. This study examined the use of hypnotics and antipsychotics, their associations with CP and SD, and initiation of serotoninnorepinephrine (SNRI) or dopamine reuptake inhibitors (duloxetine, venlafaxine XR) in a representative sample of patients with MDD. METHODS: A total of 153,913 patients who had at least 1 diagnosis of MDD during the year 2006 were selected from a large commercially insured administrative claims database. The analytic sample consisted of 46,288 (30.6%) males and 39,624 (69.4%) females, with a mean age of 43.6 years (SD = 12.7). In accordance with ICD-9-CM, CP was defined as any of the following 6 categories: headache, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, low back pain, fibromyalgia, and neuropathic pain. Hypnotics/antipsychotics were classified into 3 categories: benzodiazepines (BZD), non-benzodiazepine hypnotics (NBZHN), and non-benzodiazepine antipsychotics (NBZNA).

Depression: ethnic differences in prevalence, diagnosis, and symptoms

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OBJECTIVES: To assess ethnic differences in the prevalence, physician diagnosis and symptomology of depression. METHODS: Data were taken from the 2008 US National Health and Wellness Survey (NIHWS), a self-reported, Internet-based study of the disease status, attitudes, habits, and outcomes of adults age 18+. Ethnic groups included whites, blacks, Hispanics and Asians. Respondents self reported experiencing depression, depression diagnosed by a physician, and experiencing the following in the previous month: bothered by feeling down, depressed, or hopeless; bothered by having little interest or pleasure in doing things. Prevalence was calculated using frequency weights based on age, gender and race. Chi-square analyses were conducted to assess statistically significant differences.

Alprazolam-related deaths in West Virginia

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OBJECTIVES: Alprazolam is a frequently prescribed benzodiazepine associated with abuse and misuse that can lead to fatalities. This study's aims were to: 1) describe the characteristics of alprazolam-related death cases; 2) describe the comorbidities, co-ingested drugs, and mean alprazolam concentrations of decedents; and 3) compare characteristics between alprazolam and non-alprazolam-related death cases. METHODS: Data from all drug-related deaths in West Virginia from January 1, 2005 to November 16, 2007 were extracted from the Forensic Drug Database. Chi square tests compared categorical descriptive statistics between alprazolam and non-alprazolam cases. One-way ANOVA compared mean alprazolam blood concentrations based upon numbers of other ingested drugs. RESULTS: Of the 1199 drug-related death cases in the database, alprazolam was the contributing cause in 836 (70.0%) cases. It was involved in an increasing number of drug-related deaths over time. The mean age of alprazolam cases was 39.6 (±11.2) years; most were male (66.3%) and white (96.0%), with the deaths ruled accidental (90.2%). There was a prescription for alprazolam in over half the cases (52.5%); approximately one-third (33.8%) had a history of substance abuse or cardiovascular disease. At least one other drug was a contributor to death in 97.5% of the alprazolam cases, with an opiate detected in most cases (88.7%). The mean alprazolam blood concentration was significantly higher when Female Sex Hormones (FSH) and Hypotensive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD) were reported.
PMH4

PREVALENCE OF DEPRESSION IN EUROPE: A COMPARISON OF FIVE COUNTRIES

Background: Previous studies on depression in Europe have focused on specific countries.

METHODS: Five European countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom) were surveyed using the same diagnostic criteria and measurement tools.

RESULTS: Prevalence of depression varied widely between the countries, with the highest rates in Italy and the United Kingdom and the lowest in Spain and Belgium.

CONCLUSIONS: Further research is needed to understand the factors contributing to the variation in prevalence.

PMH5

PATIENT ASSESSED QUALITY OF LIFE VERSUS CLINICIAN ASSESSMENT: A POST-HOC ANALYSIS OF A TRIAL OF ARIPRIZOLE IN ADOLESCENT PATIENTS WITH MANIC-EPHORPHENIA

Background: Manic-epiphrenia is a rare and complex condition.

METHODS: A post-hoc analysis of a randomized controlled trial comparing aripiprazole with placebo.

RESULTS: There were significant improvements in quality of life assessed by both patient and clinician measures.

CONCLUSIONS: Aripiprazole may be a useful treatment for manic-epiphrenia.

PMH6

A COMPARATIVE REVIEW OF SAFETY, EFFICACY AND ECONOMICS OF OFF-LABEL PRESCRIBING OF LEADING ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS

Background: Off-label prescribing is a common practice.

METHODS: A systematic review of the literature was conducted.

RESULTS: There was a lack of evidence for the safety and efficacy of off-label prescribing.

CONCLUSIONS: Further research is needed to evaluate the risks and benefits of off-label prescribing.

PMH7

PATIENT ASSESSED QUALITY OF LIFE VS. CLINICIAN ASSESSMENT IN A TRIAL OF ARIPIRIZOLE IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER

Background: Bipolar disorder is a challenging condition to manage.

METHODS: A randomized controlled trial comparing aripiprazole with placebo.

RESULTS: There were significant improvements in quality of life assessed by both patient and clinician measures.

CONCLUSIONS: Aripiprazole may be a useful treatment for pediatric bipolar disorder.

PMH8

GROWTH AND DIFFUSION OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICINES FOR LABELED AND OFF-LABEL USES, 1994-2007

Background: Antipsychotic drugs are widely used.

METHODS: Sales data from various sources were analyzed.

RESULTS: Antipsychotic sales have increased significantly, with a shift towards off-label use.

CONCLUSIONS: Further research is needed to understand the drivers of this trend.

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