

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder pharmacotherapy in Slovenian adults: a population-based study.

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Int J Clin Pharm. 2018 Feb 21.

doi: 10.1007/s11096-018-0605-0.

Abstract

Background

Pharmacotherapy is the first line treatment for adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and the percentage of treated patients may indicate the quality of treatment of adult ADHD. The main aim of this study was to investigate the rates of pharmacological treatment for adult ADHD in Slovenia from 2003 to 2015.

Methods

The number of prescriptions per patient was obtained for three different age groups (18-24, 25-49, 50 + age group). The national consumption rates were obtained from the national database. The only drugs that were available and were included in this study were methylphenidate (MPH) and atomoxetine (ATX).

Results

Between 2003 and 2015 the rate of patients aged 18-24 who were treated with MPH increased from 0.8 per 10,000 people aged 18-24 to 8.9 per 10,000 people, while the increase in the other two age groups was less substantial (25-49, 50 + age group). The rate of patients aged 18-24 treated with ATX in 2015 was 7.3 per 10,000 people and 2.2 per 10,000 people in the 25-49 age category and 0.28 in the 50 + age group category.

Conclusion

Prescription rates of ADHD medication have increased dramatically in the study period. The high proportion of ADHD patients treated with ATX can be explained by low adherence to treatment guidelines. This is the first study to compare ADHD pharmacotherapy across different adult age groups in this part of Europe, so the results could be widely relevant.