

PHARMACY REFILL ADHERENCE WITH ANTIDEPRESSANTS

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Non-persistence and -adherence with antidepressants (AD) is common and influenced by many different factors.

To assess refill adherence, we conducted a retrospective cohort study using data from the large DAPI database which includes more than 80 % of community pharmacies' claims data.

Patients with a new (= index) prescription for an AD in the first quarter of 2006, who had not received any prescription for an AD in the past 6 months, but were eligible in the database, were included in the study. We analyzed the percentage of patients presenting a second prescription of any AD within 12 months.

Furthermore, we analyzed the refill adherence regarding the prescription of different pack size units i.e., N1=20, N2=50, and N3=100 tablets at index prescription.

In total, 433,615 patients were included. Only 255,414 (59%) received one or more further prescriptions within one year after their index prescription. Of 120,727 patients prescribed the smallest unit N1 at index prescription, 32% received a following prescription within two months. Of those who initiated their therapy in either with the N2 unit (162,527 patients) or N3 unit (150,361 patients), 38% received their second prescription within three (N2) or four (N3) months.

Exploring this very large cohort, results indicate that early discontinuation of AD is very frequent in ambulatory care. Based on these data, we are planning to further evaluate drug persistence in an even larger cohort of patients and according to different classes of AD as well as analyzing potential variables such as co-medication or type of prescriber which may influence patients' persistence and adherence.