



ANALYSIS OF HIGH-ALERT MEDICATIONS PRESCRIPTION IN A NURSING HOME

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

High-alert medications are those that, when they are not being properly used, are more likely to cause serious or even fatal harm to patients. Chronic patients are especially vulnerable to those possible errors because of their comorbidity and polypharmacy. The Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality of Spain promotes the implementation of improving safe practices for those patients.

In 2014, a panel of experts developed a list of high-alert drugs for chronic patients to prioritize practices for improving safe in those patients. This list was named HAMC list (high-alert medications for patients with chronic illnesses) and was publicated by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality of Spain.

OBJECTIVES

To analyse the prevalence of prescribed medications included in the HAMC list in a nursing home.

METHODS

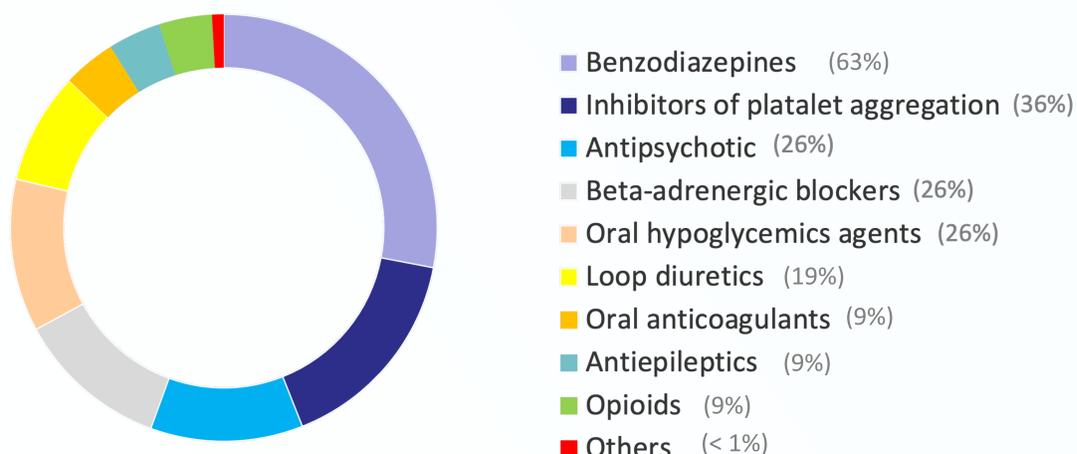
Descriptive, transversal and retrospective study was carried out in September 2020, that included all residents with chronic illness of a nursing home assigned to our pharmacy service.

Variables: demographic data, number of prescribed medicaments, number and type of prescribed medicaments included in the HAMC list.

RESULTS

- Eighty-one patients were included (59 men).
- Mean age was 72 (56-94).
- A total of 721 drugs were prescribed, whose **186** were included in the HAMC list.

- At least 1 HAMC was prescribed in 86% of patients, with a mean of 3 HAMC per patient (1-7).
- Digoxine, amiodarone/dronedarone and methotrexate were not prescribed.



Therapeutic groups of HAMC list prescribed (% of patients)

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- ✓ HAMC were widely prescribed. Benzodiazepines were the therapeutic group included in the HAMC list more prescribed in our population, followed by antiplatelets and antipsychotics.
- ✓ The HAMC list were a useful tool for a first approach in the detection of patients who may be at a higher risk of suffering serious harms if medication errors occur.
- ✓ The implementation of specific safe practice for those drugs could reduce these potential or real errors in those patients.