**BACKGROUND**

Drug dosage errors may be found during pharmaceutical validation in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

An appropriate maintenance dosage must be determined to optimize drug therapy.

**PURPOSE**

1. To determine the incidence of drug dosage errors in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease in patients admitted to a tertiary hospital.

2. To analyze causes for drug dosage errors and to evaluate the rate of acceptance by the physician of the pharmaceutical intervention (PI) recommending a correct dosage.

**RESULTS**

- **Pharmaceutical Intervention (PI)**
  - PI was performed in 85.7% of prescriptions with dosage errors.
  - 16.6% of PIs were accepted.
  - All of the accepted PIs were concerned with reconciliation errors.

- **64 patients** were included. Average age: 83.4 years old, 64% women.
- **We reviewed 74 prescriptions** with the following drugs: rivastigmine 37.9%(28), donepezil 25.6%(19), galantamine 9.5%(7) and memantine 27%(20).
- **There was a dosage error in 28.4% of prescriptions**, all of them due to lower doses than recommended.

  - The causes of errors were:
    - 19% wrong dosage prior to admission
    - 52% incorrect reconciliation of home treatment
    - 29% incorrect record in the CPOE by the physician.

**CONCLUSIONS**

More than one quarter of the reviewed prescriptions were wrong. The low acceptance of PI may be due to the physician’s belief that a long-term treatment does not affect the clinical course of the acute process that caused the admission to the hospital.