Agreement between potential drug interactions identified by an electronic tool and clinical judgment: INTERcheck® versus physicians.

S. Antoniazzi 1, M. Chiarelli 2, F. Venturini 2, A. Nobili 3, L. Pasina 3, C. Casiraghi 4, S. Damanti 5, G. Periti 6, R. Rossio 7, P.M. Mannucci 1

1 Direzione Scientifica; 2 UOC Farmacia; 4 UOC Medicina Interna Alta Intensità di Cura; 5 UOC Geriatria; 6 UOC Medicina Interna 1B; 7 UOC Medicina Interna 3; Fondazione IRCCS Ca’ Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milano, Italy; 9 IRCCS - Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Neuroscienze, Milano, Italy.

Background
The software INTERcheck® provides to physicians the potential drug-drug interactions (pDDIs) of a patient therapy classifying them based on clinical relevance from the literature, as A (minor), B (moderate), C (major), D (contraindicated).

Purpose:
to assess the concordance between the clinical relevance of pDDIs as classified by INTERcheck® and the physician’s personal judgement.

Materials and methods
This retrospective study, conducted in 4 wards between April and October 2014, identified pDDIs from medical records of elderly inpatients ≥ 65 years, on ≥ 5 drugs using INTERcheck®. Clinical relevance as classified by INTERcheck® was then compared with physician’s judgement through a structured interview consisting of four questions, as follows: is the pDDI known? is it clinically relevant?, if yes, why?, the knowledge of the pDDI at the time of prescription would have changed your prescribing approach?
Concordance between INTERcheck® and physician’s judgement was defined as: classification of “clinically relevant = yes” by physician and class C or D by INTERcheck®; classification of “clinically relevant = no” by physician and class A and B by INTERcheck®.

Results
Medical records of 60 inpatients were analyzed: 1658 drugs were prescribed, 481 unduplicated pDDIs were detected by INTERcheck® and subsequently evaluated by physicians (Fig.1). Of those, 229 (47.6%) were unknown and 235 (49%) were classified by them as clinically relevant: 158 (67%) for potential adverse effects, 58 (25%) for patient complexity/co-morbidity, 19 (8%) for other reasons.
According to INTERcheck®, pDDIs were classified as: 12 (2,5%) A; 300 (62,4%) B; 113 (23,5%) C and 56 (11,6%) D (Fig.2).
Concordance between physician’s judgment and INTERcheck® was: 83% (10/12) for A, 63% (189/300) for B, 73% (83/113) for C, 70% (39/56) for D (Fig.3).
The knowledge of the pDDI at the time of prescription would have resulted in a change of therapy in 28,5% (137/481) of cases.

Conclusions
A high concordance between INTERcheck® and physician’s judgement was found throughout all INTERcheck® classes. The lowest concordance was retrieved in class B. This finding will be taken into account to improve this database according to physician’s needs.