



Original article

Detection of potential risks in the prescription of tricyclic antidepressants through an online clinical alert system[☆]



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ABSTRACT

Objective: To analyse the use, indications and potential risks of tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), using a technological system of clinical alerts at the time of prescription.

Methods: Observational, descriptive, retrospective study on a population covered by a Colombian health insurance plan with an average of 2,333,582 members/month. The information was generated in the PBM (Pharmacy Benefit Management) MC21 Colombia technological platform.

Results: Of the total members, 368,298 (16%) patients/month on average were prescribed medicines; 3,640 (1%) were prescribed TCAs: 2,573 amitriptyline (70%) and 1,062 imipramine (29%); 817 (22.5%) were over 65 years of age. The median daily dose of amitriptyline and imipramine was 25 mg. A total of 17,153 alerts were reported: 8,685 (51%) for drug-drug interactions, 7,354 (43%) for drug-age interactions and 543 (3%) for duplicate therapy.

Conclusions: Risks were identified in the prescription of tricyclic antidepressants, especially in the over-65 population, where these drugs are used in particular for the management of neuropathic pain. The clinical alert system at the time of medicinal product formulation can make an important contribution to the prevention of potential adverse events associated with the use of medicinal products.

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