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Co-prescription of opioids with benzodiazepine and other co-medications among opioid users: Differential in opioid doses (Article)

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Abstract

Purpose: This study investigated the patterns of **opioid co-prescription** with **benzodiazepine** and **other** concomitant **medications** among **opioid users**. **Opioid** dose in each type of **co-prescription** was also examined. **Patients and methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted among **opioid users** receiving concomitant **medications** at an outpatient tertiary hospital setting in Malaysia. **Opioid** prescriptions (morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, dihydrocodeine and tramadol) that were **co-prescribed** with **other medications** (**opioid** + benzodiazepines, **opioid** + antidepressants, **opioid** + anticonvulsants, **opioid** + antipsychotics and **opioid** + hypnotics) dispensed from January 2013 to December 2014 were identified. The number of patients, number of **co-prescriptions** and the individual mean **opioid** daily dose in each type of **co-prescription** were calculated. **Results:** A total of 276 patients receiving 1059 **co-prescription opioids** with **benzodiazepine** and **other co-medications** were identified during the study period. of these, 12.3% of patients received **co-prescriptions** of **opioid** + **benzodiazepine**, 19.3% received **opioid** + anticonvulsant, 6.3% received **opioid** + antidepressant and 10.9% received **other co-prescriptions**, including antipsychotics and hypnotics. The individual mean **opioid** dose was <100 mg/d of morphine equivalents in all types of **co-prescriptions**, and the dose ranged from 31 to 66 mg/d in the coprescriptions of **opioid** + **benzodiazepine**. **Conclusion:** Among the **opioid users** receiving concomitant **medications**, the **co-prescriptions** of **opioid** with **benzodiazepine** were prescribed to 12.3% of patients, and the individual **opioid** dose in this **co-prescription** was moderate. **Other co-medications** were also commonly used, and their **opioid** doses were within the recommended dose. Future studies are warranted to evaluate the adverse effect and clinical outcomes of the **co-medications** particularly in long-term **opioid users** with chronic non-cancer pain. © 2017 Zin and Ismail.

Author keywords

Benzodiazepine; Co-medication; Co-prescription; Opioid; Opioid users; Pain

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