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Does inappropriate prescribing affect elderly patients' quality of life? A study from a Malaysian tertiary hospital

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Abstract

Purpose

To investigate the association between potentially inappropriate medication (PIM)/potential prescribing omission (PPO) and the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) among community-dwelling hospitalized elderly patients.

Methods

This is a cross-sectional study that took place in a Malaysian tertiary hospital. Patients ≥ 65 years old with at least one medication on admission were recruited. The patients' prehospitalization medications were reviewed to identify PIMs/PPOs using version 2 of the STOPP/START criteria. HRQoL was assessed using the EuroQol-5 dimensions (EQ-5D) and EuroQol-visual analog scale (EQ-VAS). The association between the presence of PIM/PPO and the patients' HRQoL was analyzed using Chi-square and Mann–Whitney U tests. Multiple linear regression models were applied to determine the effect of exposure to PIM/PPO on the patients' HRQoL, adjusting for confounders.

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differences were found in the EQ-5D dimensions, EQ-5D index and EQ-VAS between patients who had PIM/PPO and those who did not. Age, sex, and comorbidities were significantly associated with the patients' HRQoL.

Conclusion

PIM and PPO are not uncommon among hospitalized elderly patients; however, it does not significantly affect their HRQoL as measured by the EQ-5D-3L instrument.

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Ethics declarations

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval

The study was conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments. Ethical approval was obtained from the Medical Research and Ethics Committee, Ministry of Health Malaysia (No. NMRR-15-718-25235), and from the Clinical Research Center (CRC) of the HTAA hospital.

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