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Evaluation of the prescribing of proton pump inhibitors as stress ulcer prophylaxis for non-ICU patients in a Malaysian tertiary hospital

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Abstract

Background

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are widely prescribed in hospital settings. Several reports have highlighted concerns about the inappropriate use of PPIs as stress ulcer prophylaxis (SUP) in patients outside the intensive care unit (ICU) setting. Little is known about this phenomenon in Malaysian hospitals.

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Results

Of 660 screened patients admitted to the general medical wards, 200 were prescribed PPIs as SUP. Oral pantoprazole was the most frequently prescribed PPI (51.5%). Only 61 (30.5%) PPIs were prescribed according to current recommendations for the use of PPI for SUP. Sex, age, number of medications, length of hospital stay, and receiving PPI at discharge were not significantly associated with appropriateness of PPI prescribing. Half of the patients continued receiving PPIs at discharge without a documented indication.

Conclusion

Our findings indicated a high prevalence of inappropriate prescribing of PPIs as SUP for non-ICU patients. Interventions to reduce the unnecessary use of PPIs in Malaysian hospital settings are desperately required. The need for national criteria that address the proper indications and dosing regimens for PPIs as SUP in ICU and non-ICU patients is high.

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Ethics declarations

Conflicts of Interest

Muhammad Eid Akkawi and Mohamed Hassan Elnaem have no conflicts of interest that are directly relevant to the content of this article.

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No sources of funding were used to conduct this study or prepare this manuscript.

Consent to participate and consent to publication

Not applicable.

Code availability

Not applicable.

Availability of data and material

Data and materials are available upon request.

Ethical Approval

This study protocol was approved by the International Islamic University Malaysia Research Ethics Committee (IREC 2019-223) and the clinical research center (CRC) of the hospital.

Author contributions

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