

PHARMACOTHERAPY COST AND PRESCRIBING PRACTICE FOR PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS IN BULGARIA

Konstantin Tachkov¹, Desislava Ignatova², Konstantin Mitov¹,
Maria Kamusheva¹, Guenka Petrova¹

¹Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University Sofia, Bulgaria;

²Psychiatric clinic, Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria

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INTRODUCTION

- ✓ Utilization of medicines for treatment of psychotic disorders needs permanent monitoring and evaluation by selected indicators.
- ✓ European commission recommends monitoring and comparing the medicines available in the European Union, their prices, utilisation, expenditure and licensed clinical properties, as well comparing national data with similar structure and content by using the defined daily doses and ATC classification.

AIM OF THE STUDY

To analyse the public expenditures and utilization of medicines for psychotic disorders in outpatient therapy settings in Bulgaria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- ✓ Retrospective quantitative study based on officially published information from the National health insurance fund (NHIF).
- ✓ Object of the study are all reimbursed patients and medicines for psychotic disorders therapy. Period of observation is years 2013-2018.
- ✓ All prescribed medicines for the therapy of psychotic disorders were systematized by ATC code and INN during 2013-2018.
- ✓ Reimbursed cost was analysed per year and per diagnosis.
- ✓ The cost is presented in national currency (BGN) at the exchange rate of 1 BGN=0.51 Euro.
- ✓ Medicines utilization was calculated for every year per ATC code and INN in (DDD/1000inh/day) = ((Prescribed quantity of INN/DDD)/(365 x Number of inhabitants)) x 1000

RESULTS

- ✓ Number of reimbursed patients decreased steadily and significantly from 62,500 to 54,000 people).
- ✓ The tendency of decrease was approximately 2200 people per year (3.5%).
- ✓ Treated patients with psychotic disorders was 834 per 100,000 of population in 2013 to 733 per 100,000 in 2017.

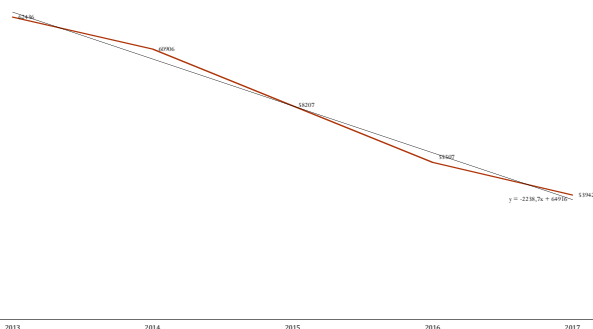
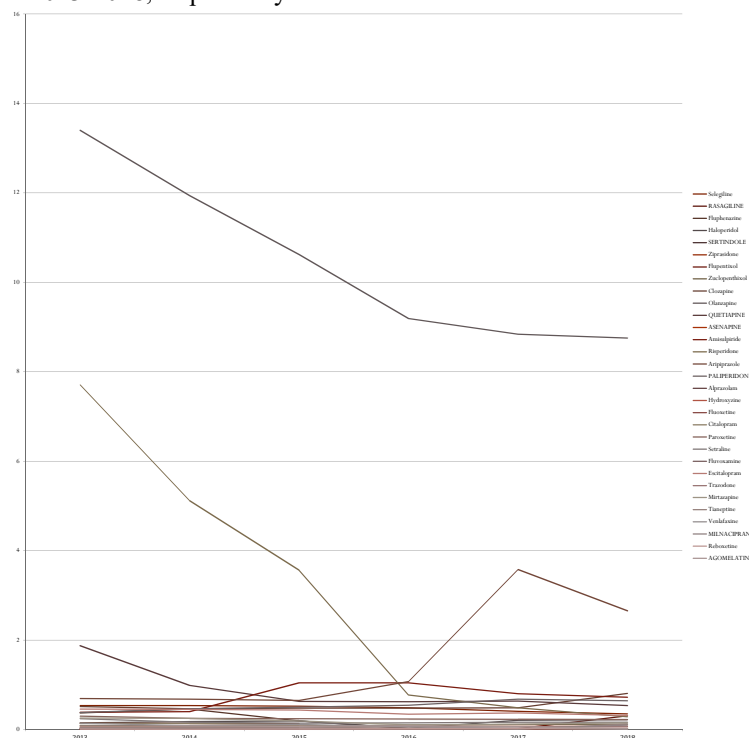


Figure 1. Changes in the total number of reimbursed patients with psychotic disorders during 2013-2017

RESULTS

- ✓ For the observed period the reimbursed cost of medicines also showed a decreasing tendency from 35 to 31 million BGN in 2013 and 2017, and the cost and paranoid schizophrenia therapy is the leading one (84% to 87.5%), respectively.
- ✓ Utilization of all ATC groups together is decreasing from 28.04 to 16.63 DDD/1000inh/day during 2013-2018
- ✓ Diazepines (N05AH), comprising of olanzapine, clozapine, quetiapine, and asenapine were the most widely prescribed with their utilisation decreasing from 15.7 to 10 DDD/1000inh/day during 2013-2018, respectively.



CONCLUSION

- ✓ Number of reimbursed patients with psychotic disorders, cost of pharmacotherapy and utilisation of psychotropic medicines constantly decreased during 2013-2018.
- ✓ The correlation between the variables is linear and high. Further analysis at individual level data is necessary to explore the reasons.

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