

BACKGROUND

- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is the most common diagnosed psychiatric disorder in children.
- The non-stimulant guanfacine hydrochloride (Intuniv®) was launched in Europe for second-line treatment of ADHD in patients 6 to 17 years of age from 2016 onwards.

OBJECTIVE

- To provide insights on utilization patterns, including off-label use, in European countries for this drug.

METHODS

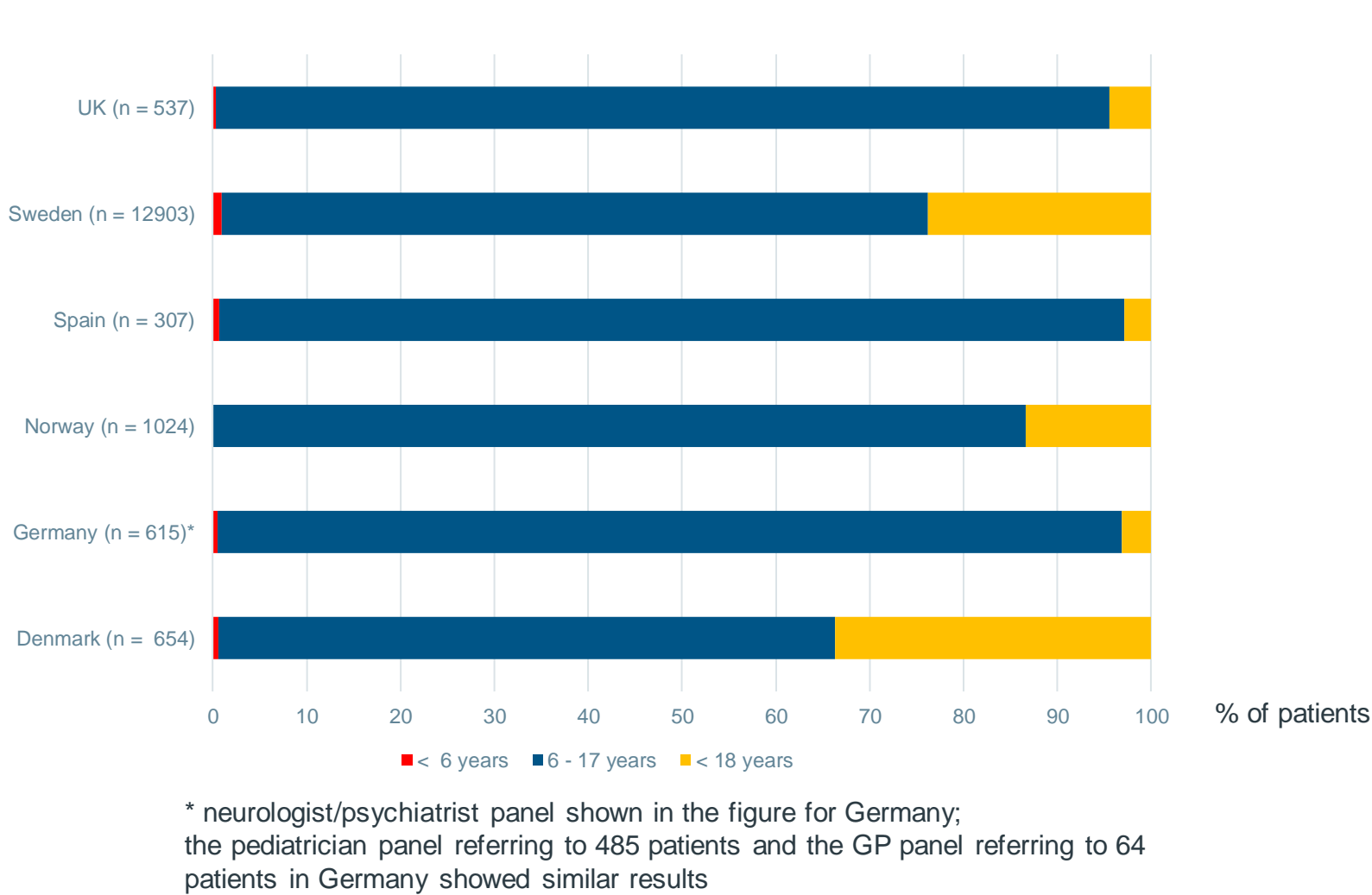
- Design: multi-country retrospective drug utilization study in 10 European countries using different data sources
- Data sources:
 - Longitudinal patient-level data sources in 6 countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden – national health registries), Germany – IQVIA Disease Analyzer, Spain – IQVIA LPD and UK – IMRD (IQVIA Medical Research Data incorporating THIN, a Cegedim Database)
 - Prescriber survey in 4 countries, Belgium, Finland, Ireland and The Netherlands
- Observational period:
 - Database study: 2016 (country specific launch date) up to 2020
 - Prescriber survey: conducted in 2021
- Study population:
 - Database study: patients with at least one prescription of guanfacine hydrochloride
 - Survey: prescribers of guanfacine hydrochloride

RESULTS

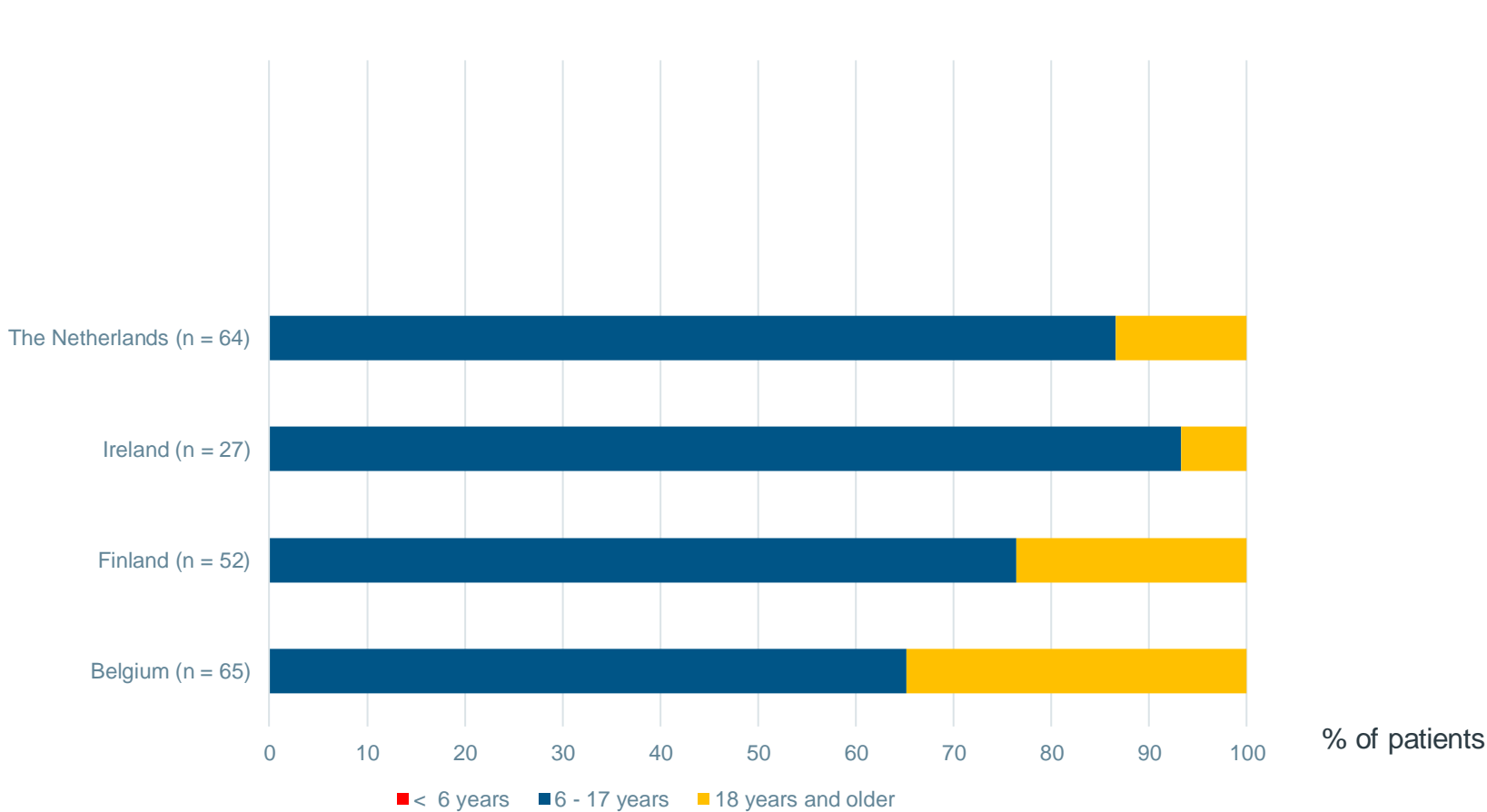
- Results are based on 16,578 patients covered in the 6 databases and insights on 218 patients provided by 102 prescribers in the survey.
- Based on the databases the percentage of patients with an ADHD diagnosis ranged from 75% in Denmark to 94% in Germany. Based on the survey the result ranged from 93% in Ireland to 98% in Belgium.
- Comorbidities of interest, mostly anxiety disorders, were documented in 5% to 36% of patients across the countries.
- Off-label use due to an age <6 years was very low (≤1% in all countries), while off-label use in adults (≥18 years) ranged from 3% to 35%.
- For 51% to 98% of the patients, psychostimulants prior to the first prescription of guanfacine hydrochloride were recorded in the databases in Denmark, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden and UK. According to the survey, results in Belgium, Ireland, Finland and The Netherlands ranged from 53% to 75%.

RESULTS (continued)

Age distribution of patients – countries with databases



Age distribution of patients – countries with surveys



SUMMARY

- The study included a large sample of > 15,000 patients in the 6 countries of the database study and information from > 100 prescribers reporting on > 200 patients in the complementary survey done in 4 additional countries.
- The findings indicate that, in most countries, guanfacine hydrochloride is prescribed mainly within the label – to the indicated age group and to patients with ADHD who had previously been treated with a stimulant medication.
- Lower prescriber compliance was observed regarding use in adult patients in Denmark, Finland and Sweden as well as Belgium in comparison to the other countries in focus. This could be due to possible differences in the attitude towards medical treatment of psychiatric diagnoses in the different countries or due to differences in actual reimbursement practices for continuers of guanfacine hydrochloride from adolescence to adulthood.

CONCLUSION

Findings indicate that, in most countries, guanfacine hydrochloride is prescribed mainly within the label.

LPD: Longitudinal Patient Data

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