

EP22.06

Morbidity trends of dementia registered in Croatian family practice and anti-dementia drug utilisation, 2005 – 2014

Dobrislav Simic(1), Z Bendekovic(2)

(1) Family Practice »Dr. Dobrislav Simic«, Bednja, Croatia

(2) Health Centre of the Varazdin County, Family Practice, Lepoglava, Croatia

Corresponding author: Dr Dobrislav Simic, Family Practice, Gp, Bednja, Croatia. E-mail: dobri@varazdin.com

Background & Aim: Dementia is a syndrome of a global decline in cognitive abilities, usually affecting older people. Croatia's population is ageing and an increased incidence of the disease is expected. The aim of the paper was to investigate the morbidity trends of dementia in family practice (FP) in Croatia and the trends in the anti-dementia drug use in the period 2005 – 2014.

Method: Morbidity data for dementia and other mental illnesses in the reference period were obtained from the Croatian Health Service yearbooks and were based on electronic records of all Croatian FPs. The collected data included diagnoses F00-F03 and R54 (International Classification of Diseases, version 10) and the age. The data on anti-dementia drug utilisation (group N06D, expressed in DDD/10000/day (DDD/TID) and, financially, in Croatian kunas) were obtained from the Annual Report of the Croatian Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices and compared to the total drug utilisation and the utilisation of drugs acting on the nervous system (group N).

Results: Dementia morbidity accounts for between 1.65% and 2.59% of the total mental illness morbidity and shows a downward trend. It is mostly present in the 65+ age group. The pharmacological utilisation grew until 2007 (2.01 DDD/TID), when it began to drop. Financial expenses reached a peak in 2009, having decreased since. In 2014, the financial expenses for anti-dementia drugs accounted for 0.18% of the total drug use and 1.14% of the drugs acting on the nervous system. Most commonly used drugs were ginkgo biloba and memantine. The use of ginkgo was the highest in 2007, having decreased since. The use of memantine has been growing, especially in 2013 and 2014.

Conclusions: Unexpectedly, the number of registered dementia diagnoses and the utilisation of anti-dementia drugs show a downward trend. This phenomenon should be further investigated.