

### PS1.311

#### Utilisation of corticosteroids in Croatian primary health care: longitudinal study, 2005-2015

Branka Živkovic Duvnjak, V Tabak, M Vrcic Keglevic

(1) Family Practice Branka Živkovic, Silba, Croatia

(2) Family Practice Vesna Tabak, Zagreb, Croatia

(3) Foundation for the Development of Family Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia

Corresponding author: Dr Branka Živkovic Duvnjak, Family Practice Branka Živkovic, Silba, Croatia. E-mail: branka.zivkovic.duvnjak@gmail.com

**Background & Aim:** Dermatitis, eczema and urticaria are the most frequent dermatological diagnoses in primary health care (PHC) in Croatia (around 53%), and topical corticosteroids are the most used drugs to treat. The aim of this study was to determine the structure of corticosteroid's utilisation in 10-year period.

**Method:** Data was collected from the Annual reports of Croatian Agency for Medical Products and Medical Devices, 2005 - 2014; anatomical therapeutic chemical classification (ATC) is used and pharmaceutical utilization is expressed in Defined Daily Doses per 1000 inhabitants per day (DDD/TID) and financial spending in Croatian kunas. According to the ATC classification, corticosteroids belong to the group D07, subgroups: D07AA-week (I), D07AB-moderately potent (II), D07AC-potent (III), D07AD-very potent (IV), D07B-in combination with antiseptics, D07C-in combination with antibiotics and D07X-in other combinations. They are mostly (more than 95%) prescribed in PHC and utilisation is expressed as financial spending; for topical use drugs, DDD/TID cannot be given exactly.

**Results:** In total utilisation of dermatologicals, the largest share belongs to the corticosteroids (around 50%); since 2009 with decreasing trend (by 15.5%). The plain corticosteroids (D07A) are the most used, with decreasing trend (50-40%), followed by the combination with antiseptics (D07B, increasing trend, 24-31%), and combination with antibiotics (D07C, increasing trend, 17-24%). Potent corticosteroids (D07AC) are the most used as plane (around 90%), as well as in combination with antiseptics (D07B, stable trend, around 90%) and with antibiotics (D07C, increasing 50-90%). Corticosteroids in other combination (D07X) are less used (6%), but mostly potent.

**Conclusions:** Utilisation of corticosteroids in Croatian PHC is in accordance to the morbidity, but with decreasing trend. The most utilised, plane or in different combinations, are the potent corticosteroids. These obtained results are the red flags for PHC doctors, prompting to think of changing their prescribing habits.