

Do French GPs prescribe using common denomination?

Hebbrecht G, Arnould P, Raineri F, Duhot D

SFMG – French Society of General Medicine – France

Introduction

Prescription using common denomination (CD) has been introduced in some countries like Canada or the Netherlands about 10 years ago.

CD prescription has been promoted by the French government since 2003 – 2004 to lessen drug prescription expenses.

Some studies have been realised in France to assess the scope of CD prescription, mainly based upon prescriptions reimbursed by social insurances and therefore linked to generic dispensing. [1]

The use by GPs of electronic medical record and pharmaceutical databases is expanding in France.

Aim

We wanted to assess the use of common denomination (CD) by French GPs in their prescriptions.

Material and methods

We realised a cross sectional study.

Volunteer GPs sent us a copy of their prescriptions issued during 6 different days in April 2006 with at least one drug linked to one of 11 clinical conditions: HBP, angina, thrombophlebitis, rhythmical disorders, heart insufficiency, diabetes, dyslipidemia, anxiety, depression, insomnia, upper respiratory infection.

For each prescription we registered the total number of drugs and the drugs prescribed in CD.

We studied:

- the part of GPs prescribing using CD,
- the part of drugs prescribed in CD,
- the part of prescriptions fully including only CD drugs,
- the part of prescriptions containing at least one CD drug using ATC classification the part of CD prescription in each ATC class.



Literature cited

[1] Parjoie R, Tassin JM, Parotte M, Cherrier C, Mathé JP, Rauch A, Dif C, Verroust P. Analysis of the prescription and delivery of seven generic drug formulations in Champagne – Ardenne and Lorraine. Rev Med Ass Maladie 2004 ; 35,2: 109-118

Results

Table 1 – Participating GPs – Status concerning CD prescription

Total number of GPs	193	100.0 %
GPs who prescribed at least one drug in CD	161	93.4 %
GPs with at least one prescription containing only CD drugs	111	57.5 %

Table 2 – Prescription and drugs – Part of CD prescription

	Number	(%)	Median per GP	[Q1 - Q3]
Prescriptions – Total	9,519		48	[38 - 61]
Prescriptions with at least 1 CD drug	3,488	(36.6%)	14	[4 - 27]
Prescribed drugs – Total	40,299		201	[144 - 261]
CD prescribed drugs	7,870	(19.5%)	20	[4 - 53]

Table 3 – Analysis for the 10 most prescribed CD drugs
– Part of CD in prescribed drugs with ATC transcode
– Part of CD prescription for each ATC class

ATC literal	Prescribed drugs		part of CD	part of CD
	all	using CD	in total	in classe
1 - Paracetamol	2,907	694	9.1 %	23.9 %
2 - Simvast	580	261	3.4 %	45.0 %
3 - Omeprazole	417	213	2.8 %	51.1 %
4 - Metformin	498	209	2.7 %	42.0 %
5 - Ibuprofen	633	203	2.7 %	32.1 %
6 - Amoxicillin	430	200	2.6 %	46.5 %
7 - Furosemide	428	187	2.4 %	43.7 %
8 - Acetylsalicylique Acid	1,137	151	2.0 %	13.3 %
9 - Atenolol	291	146	1.9 %	50.2 %
10 - Zolpidem	374	139	1.8 %	37.2 %
Total with ATC transcode	35,762	7,646		21.4 %

Discussion

The part of GP prescribing using CD was very high (83 %), but the sample participating to the study was not representative of the French GP population.

With 20 % the part of drugs prescribed using CD is very high too.

The 10 first ATC classes represent 1/3 of the total amount of CD prescriptions, paracetamol being the most prescribed class.

On average 1/5 of the prescribed drugs were CD.

Among the 10 most prescribed classes only Acetylsalicylique Acid with 13 % was beneath the 20 % average value.

Conclusions

More than 80 % of the volunteer GPs of this study prescribed at least partly in CD, some of them for the whole prescription.

Paracetamol was the most prescribed ATC class.

Acknowledgments

We thank CNAM-TS and FAQSV for funding this study.

We thank GPs participating to this study.

For further information

Please contact g.hebbrecht@sfm.org

More information on this and related projects can be obtained at www.sfm.org