

A Comprehensive Analytical Study On The Antipsychotic Polypharmacy In Mental Health Institution Within Luzon, Philippines: Its Prevalence and Implications

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Abstract

The use of multiple antipsychotic medications simultaneously in a single patient is known as antipsychotic polypharmacy. It is often associated with the concurrent use of multiple medications without proper coordination, potentially resulting in inappropriate medication practices, which can increase the risk of adverse drug reactions and interactions. Objectives: This study was conducted to assess the prevalence, and implications of antipsychotic and general polypharmacy in mental health institutions within Luzon, Philippines. This mixed, retrospective study was conducted within two mental health institutions in Luzon, Philippines with collection and analysis of individual medication records done retrospectively, covering the period from January 2022 to January 2023. Additionally, reliable and trusted online resources were utilized to identify the drug-to-drug interactions of the medications prescribed. Through the gathered determinants of polypharmacy, the results found a high prevalence of general polypharmacy practice in the studied population with 52.69% (n=49) receiving 3 to 5 medications. In terms of antipsychotic polypharmacy, 59.14% (n=55) of the total population received a total of 2 to 3 antipsychotic drugs which also suggests a high prevalence of antipsychotic polypharmacy. Specific drug-to-drug interactions of different combination drugs were also identified and analyzed. This suggests a significant prevalence of antipsychotic polypharmacy among the study population, indicating the common practice of prescribing multiple medications for individuals with psychiatric disorders. The study also revealed a noteworthy occurrence of drug-to-drug interactions with the prescribed drugs, emphasizing the importance of taking crucial considerations when administering multiple antipsychotic and common medications to patients with psychiatric disorders.

Keywords: Antipsychotic, Determinants, Drug Interactions, Polypharmacy, Prevalence