

PREVALENCE OF POTENCIAL DRUG INTERACTIONS IN AN ONCOLOGIC UNIT SPECIALIZED IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

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Abstract

Cancer patients are predisposed to potential drug interactions (PDIs) due to the high complexity of treatment regimens. This study aimed to identify and classify PDIs found in electronic prescriptions of oncology patients over 18 years old hospitalized at the oncology inpatient unit of Women's Hospital Prof. Dr. Aristodemo Pinotti – CAISM/UNICAMP from August/2014 to March/2015. The PDIs had been classified by Thomson Micromedex™ database. Two thousand, five hundred and fifty nine prescriptions of 225 patients were evaluated and 11,084 PDIs were identified. In conclusion the present study shows a high incidence of PDIs in prescriptions.

Key words: Drug Interaction, cancer, medication use.

Introduction

Patients with breast and gynecological cancer may develop complications that require admission in inpatient units, and receive concomitant medications that increase the predisposition of interactions occurring with each other¹. This study aimed to identify and classify potential drug interactions (PDIs) and the drug classes found in electronic prescriptions of the oncology patients over 18 years old hospitalized for more than 24 hours at the oncology inpatient unit of Women's Hospital Prof. Dr. Aristodemo Pinotti – CAISM/UNICAMP, since August/2014 to March/2015.

Results and Discussion

A total of 2,559 electronic prescriptions from 225 oncological patients were evaluated. Overall 198 types of medications were prescribed with an average of 8.60 ± 3.24 drugs per prescription (mean \pm standard deviation). The duration of hospital stay was 11.37 ± 11.53 . The main reason for admission was pain in general (10.05%) and the prevalent comorbidity was hypertension (16.33%).

Among the evaluated prescriptions, 92.69% (n=2372) had PDIs. It was identified 11,084 PDIs in 2559 electronic prescriptions, in all, 120 were classified as contraindicated and 3,830 as important (Image 1). The database used to classify was the Thomson Micromedex™².

According to ATC³ classification, the drug class most involved in PDIs were drugs for the nervous system.

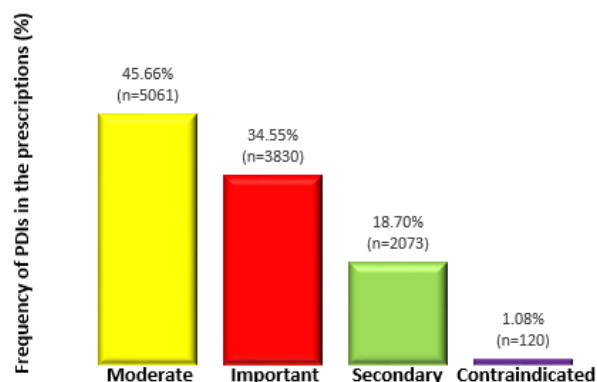


Image 1. Level of severity of the PDIs identified

Conclusions

The patients were exposed to a large number of PDIs, predominantly with moderate severity, and the most involved drug class was for the nervous system.

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¹ RIECHELMANN, R. P.; DEL GLIO, A. Drug interactions in oncology: how common are they? *Ann Oncol*, v.20, n.12, p.1907-12, 2009.

² KLASCO, R. K. *DRUG-REAX System (electronic version)*. Thomson Micromedex. [Online] 1.0 Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA, 2010.

³ WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology, Guidelines for ATC classification and DDD assignment 2013. Oslo, 2012.