

# PREVALENCE OF ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA FOLLOWING ANTIPSYCHOTICS: A LARGE POPULATION STUDY

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## BACKGROUND AND AIM

Antipsychotics have been associated with aspiration pneumonia in older people. However, epidemiologic evidence of the association between antipsychotic drug use and pneumonia is limited. In this study we aimed to investigate the association between antipsychotic exposure and aspiration pneumonia during hospitalization in a large older population.

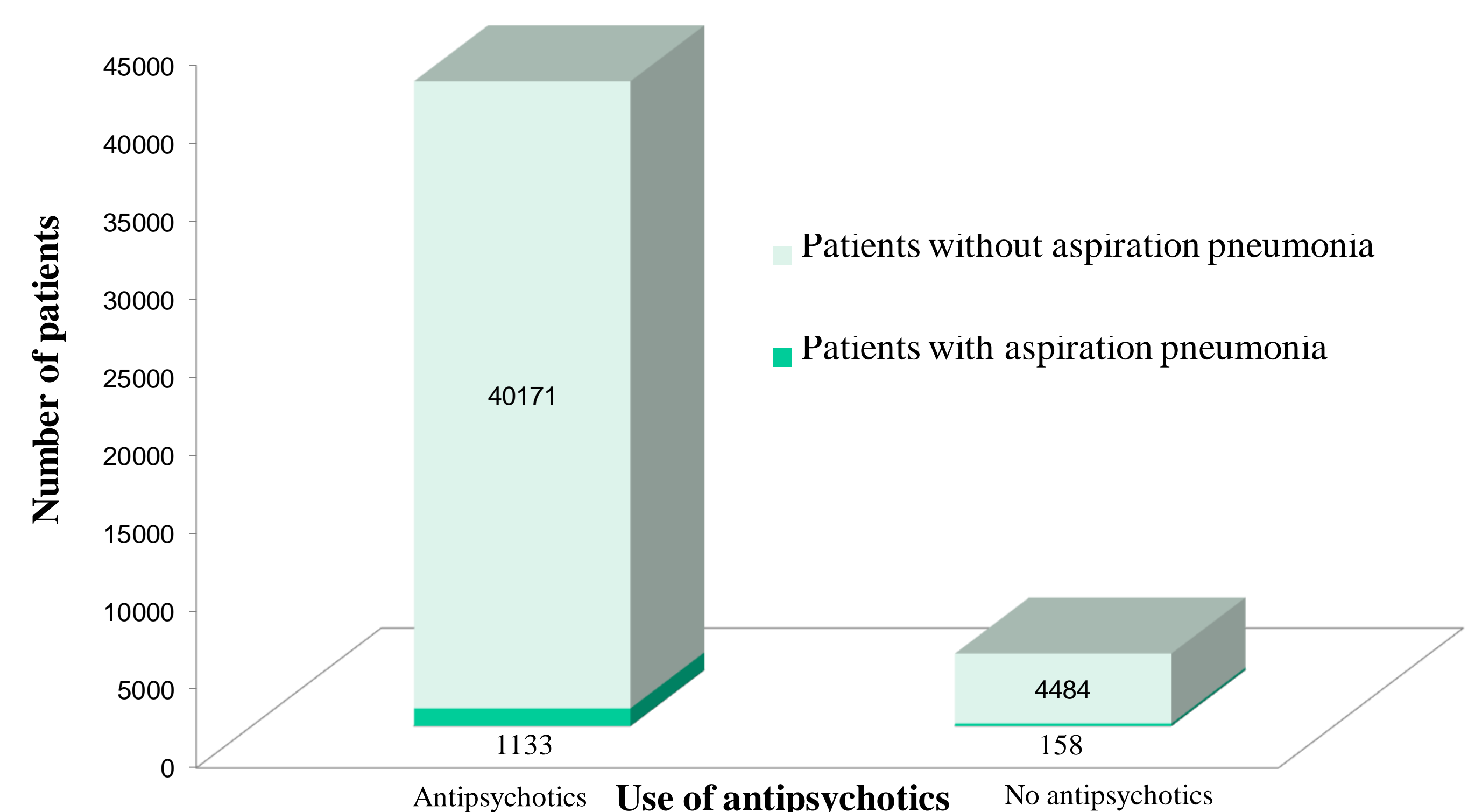
## METHODS

- Retrospective cross-sectional study.
- All hospitalizations between January 2013 and December 2017 of patients aged from 65 to 85 were included.
- Aspiration pneumonia was defined according to the discharge diagnosis codes of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) -9 and -10 and antipsychotic use as any pharmacy charge for an antipsychotic medication.

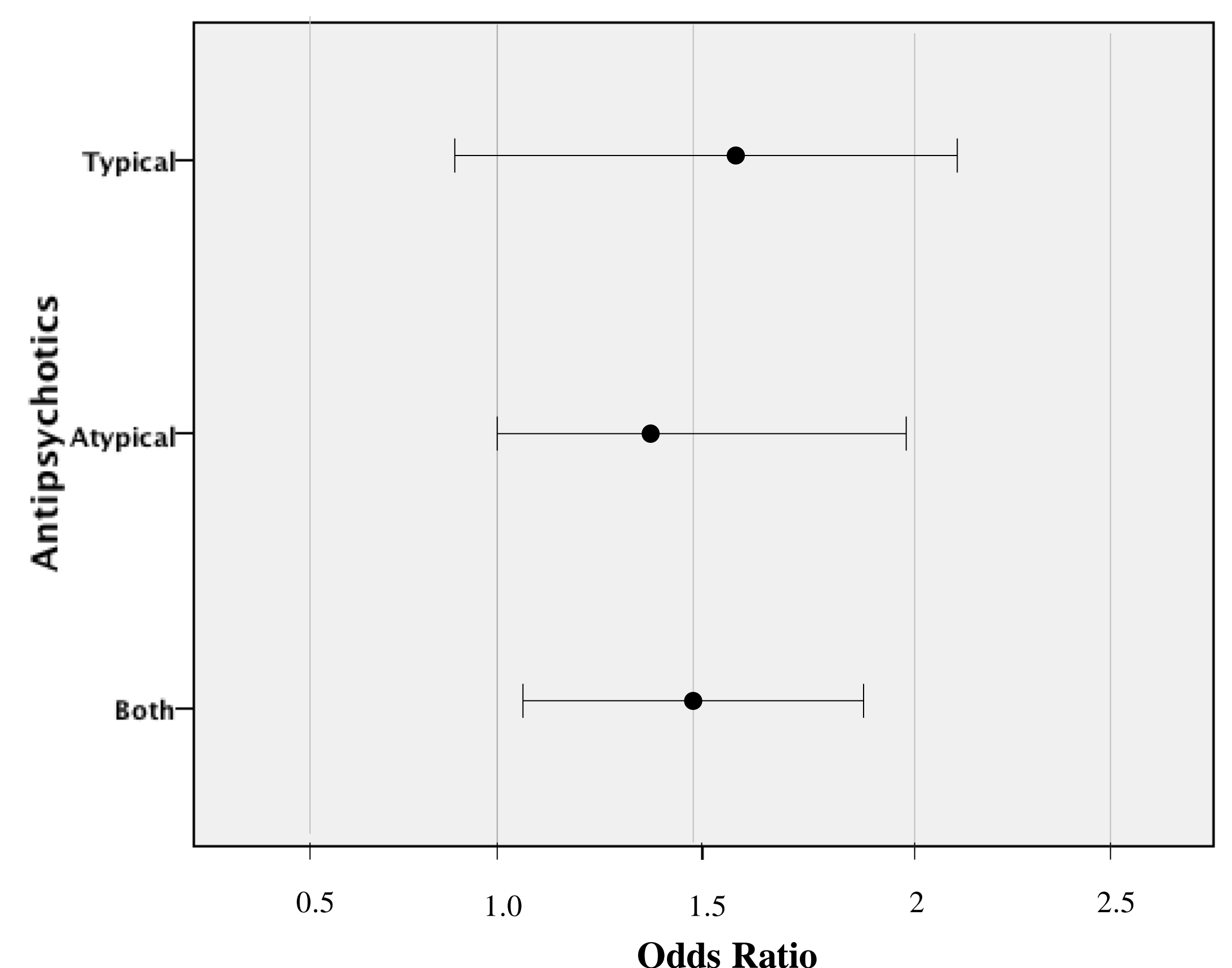
## RESULTS

- Our cohort included **44,655 hospitalizations** of patients from 65 to 85 years (medium age 74.96 years; 54.8% female).
- **Aspiration pneumonia** occurred in 1291 (**2.9%**) hospitalizations.
- **Antipsychotics** were used in 4,484 (**10.0%**) hospitalizations (65% were atypical, 26% typical and 9% both).
- The **incidence of aspiration pneumonia** was **2.8%** (N=1133) in patients **not taking antipsychotics** and **3.5%** (N=158) in those **taking antipsychotics** (odds ratio (OR) = 1.5, 95% confidence interval (CI) = 1.0-2.1) (Fig. 1).
- The magnitude of the association was only a little bit higher for typical (OR = 1.6, 95% CI = 0.94-2.2) than atypical (OR = 1.4, 95% CI = 1.0-2.0) antipsychotics (Fig. 2).

**Fig. 1.** Incidence of aspiration pneumonia regarding the use of antipsychotics.



**Fig. 2.** Odds Ratios with 95% Confidence Limits



## CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Use of either typical or atypical antipsychotics in older people seems to be associated with increased risk for aspiration pneumonia.
- ✓ This modest association has to be taken into account, not only for the risk related with the use of antipsychotics, but also for the dementia, the most frequently pathology for which the antipsychotics are prescribed, which increases the risk of aspiration pneumonia itself due to the reduced level of consciousness of these patients.