

APPLYING DIFFERENT SCALES FOR CALCULATING THE ANTICHOLINERGIC BURDEN IN OLDER PATIENTS

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BACKGROUND

Anticholinergic scales (AS) are defined as medication lists that classify drugs according to their anticholinergic anticholinergic potential. They use different criteria for defining the anticholinergic properties of drugs. The sum of the the score of for each drug included in the scale is the anticholinergic burden (AB). AB can detect patients with a high risk of cognitive and functional adverse events.

OBJETIVES

To estimate anticholinergic risk (AR) in elderly elderly patients based on different AS.



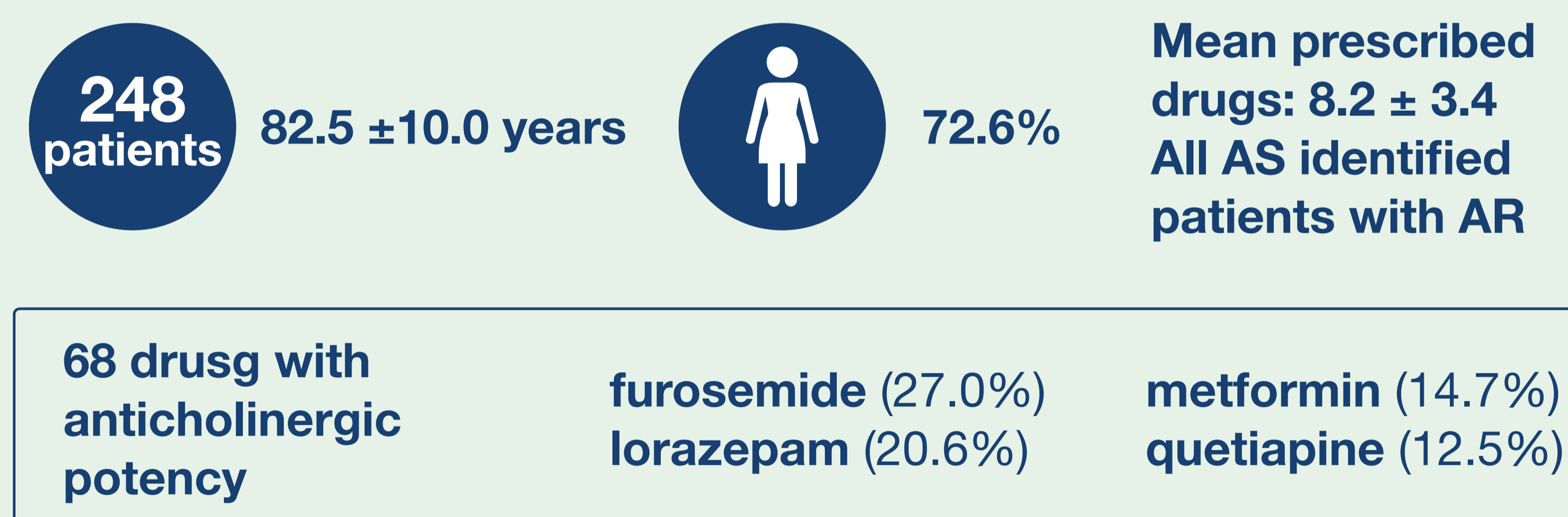
METHODS

A cross-sectional study that included all elderly patients residing in in a nursing home in September 2017. Age, sex and pharmacotherapy were collected for each patient. AB was calculated using ten different AS described in a systematic review¹. They are as follows:

- 1 Anticholinergic Cognitive Burden Scale (ACB)
- 2 Anticholinergic Risk Scale (ARS)
- 3 Chew's scale (CS)
- 4 Anticholinergic Drug Scale (ADS)
- 5 Anticholinergic Activity Scale (AAS)
- 6 Anticholinergic Load Scale (ALS)
- 7 Clinician-Rated Anticholinergic Scale (CRAs)
- 8 Duran's scale (DS)
- 9 Anticholinergic Burden Classification (ABC)
- 10 Drug Burden Index (DBI)

The scales offer final AR scores classified in 3 The scales offer final AR scores classified in 3 groups: low, medium and high, according to the risk categorisation made by authors of each scale. Higher scores are associated with increased AR.

RESULTS



Scale	Low n (%)	Medium n (%)	High n (%)
ACB	79 (27.8)	38 (15.3)	46 (18.5)
ARS	73 (29.4)	24 (9.7)	7 (2.5)
CS	36 (14.5)	24 (9.7)	18 (7.3)
ADS	55 (22.2)	32 (12.9)	44 (17.7)
AAS	37 (14.9)	13 (5.2)	13 (5.2)
ALS	65 (26.2)	37 (14.9)	16 (6.5)
CRAs	50 (20.2)	40 (16.1)	28 (11.3)
DS	80 (32.3)	28 (11.3)	9 (3.6)
ABC	0	0	95 (38.3)
DBI	0	90 (36.3)	81 (32.7)

CONCLUSIONS

A high proportion of elderly patients are at risk of anticholinergic adverse events because of treatment. Due to varying identification and scoring criteria for anticholinergic drugs, the AS used revealed extensive differences in calculating AB. However, detection of AR can be an important strategy for optimising treatment in those patients.