

Prevalence of medication prescription with a potential negative effect on swallowing in outpatients with cognitive impairment and a diagnosis of dysphagia

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BACKGROUND

Dysphagia is a highly prevalent syndrome in the elderly population, and especially in those with cognitive impairment. Many drugs commonly used in pathologies prevalent in the elderly have been identified as causing a potential negative effect on swallowing function. Raising awareness about the dimension of this problem can help increase the safety of pharmacological treatment in these patients.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To determine the prevalence of medication prescription with a potential negative effect on swallowing in elderly outpatients with cognitive impairment and diagnosis of dysphagia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Observational, descriptive and cross-sectional study.
- Inclusion criteria: patients with cognitive impairment and a diagnosis of dysphagia.
- Recorded data: sociodemographic, prescribed medications, potential effect on swallowing function and its mechanism data.

RESULTS

Data

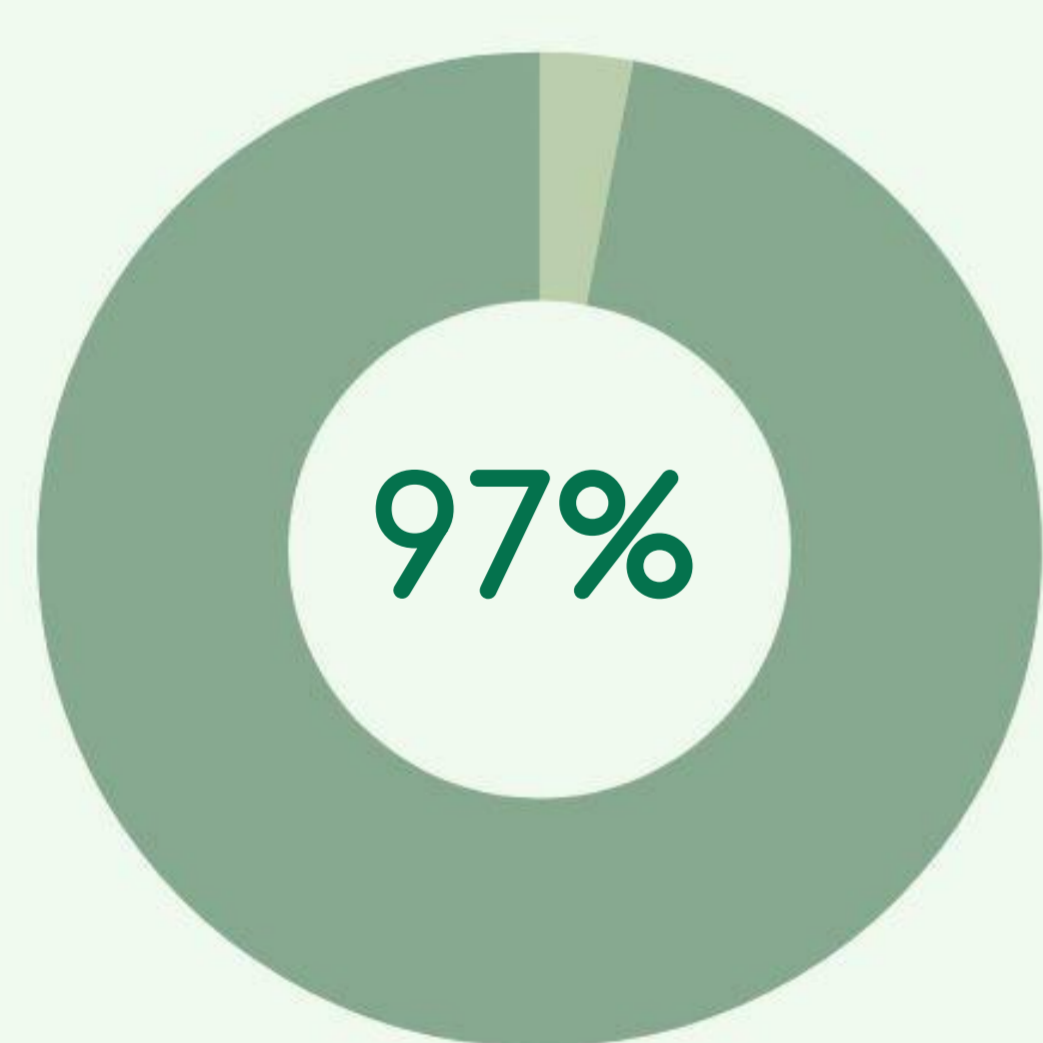
n: 68 patients
46 ♀ 22 ♂
Mean age: 85,5

594 revised prescriptions

246 prescriptions of medications with potential negative effect on swallowing

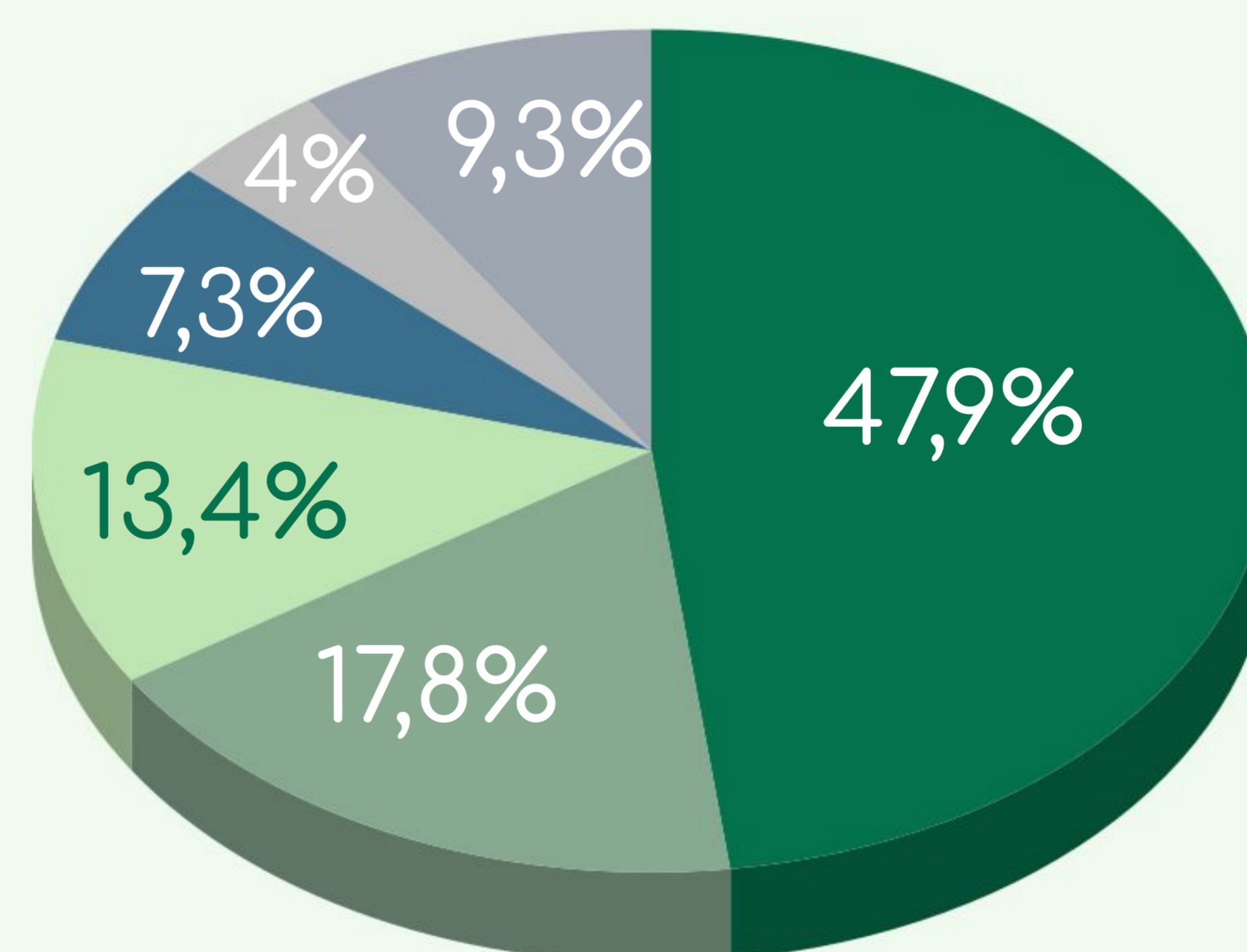
170 drugs

12 therapeutic groups



Patients with at least one prescription of medication with potential negative effect on swallowing.

Mechanisms



- Sedative
- Xerostomia
- Neuromuscular action
- Direct irritants
- Unknown
- Shared mechanisms

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- We observed a high prevalence of drug prescriptions with a potential negative effect on swallowing in this subgroup of patients.
- These results highlight the importance of reevaluating the clinical need for these medical prescriptions in patients with dysphagia.
- Hospital pharmacy has an important role in detecting these medical prescriptions and promoting the search for alternatives to ensure the best benefit-risk ratio.

