



CP121

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## ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS FROM ANTIPSYCHOTICS CONTRIBUTING TO ADMISSIONS IN AN ACUTE GENERAL HOSPITAL

The adverse 'effects' of antipsychotic medicines has been implicated in the admissions of 10% patients taking these medicines.

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Antipsychotic medicines are associated with an increased risk of falls, delirium, cerebrovascular and cardiovascular fatalities (1). These adverse drug reactions (ADRs) have a negative impact on patient's quality of life and are often implicated in hospital admissions, as such they can be a significant burden on health services (2)

### Objectives

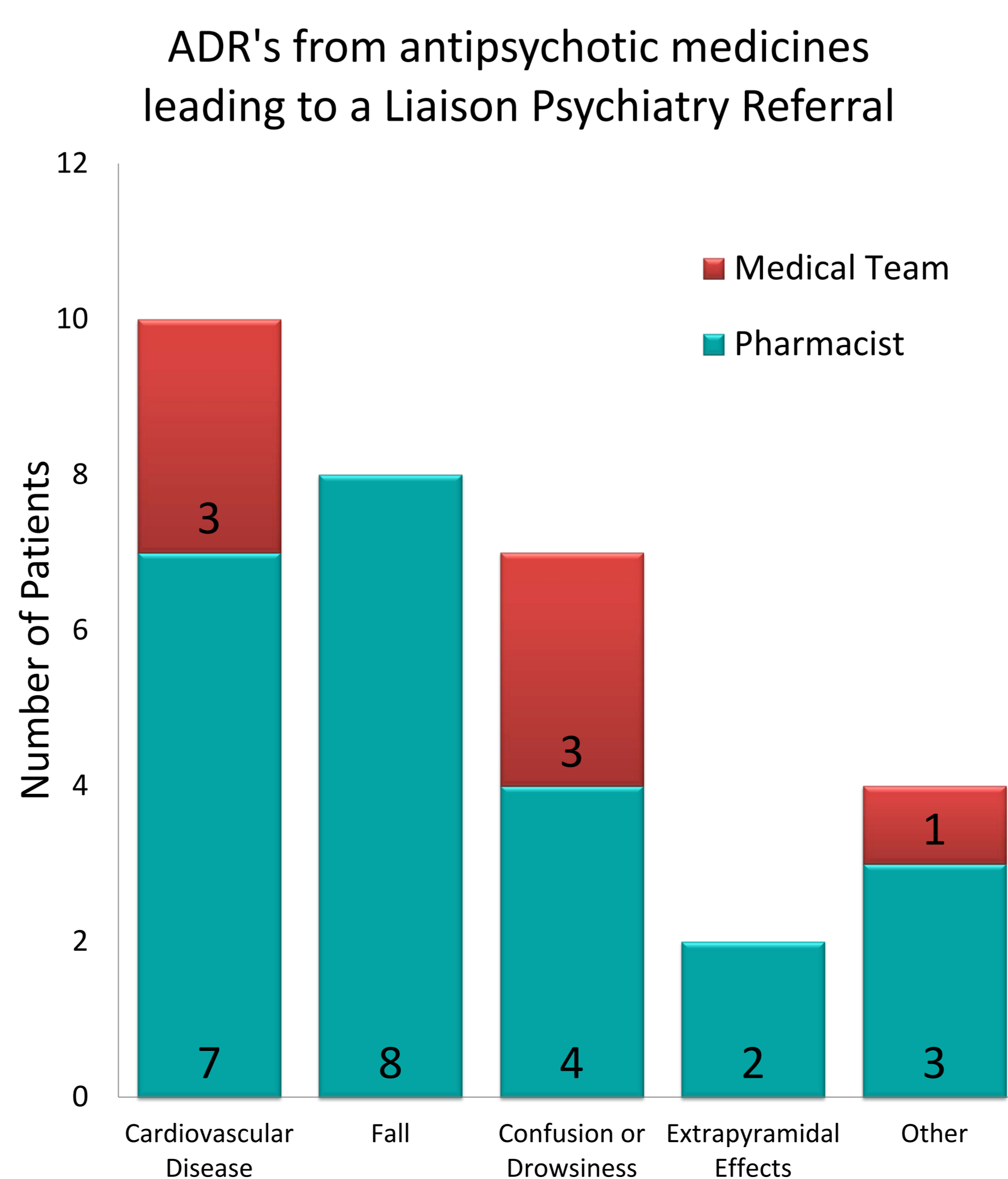
To investigate how ADRs from antipsychotic medications may contribute to admission in an acute general hospital.

### Methods

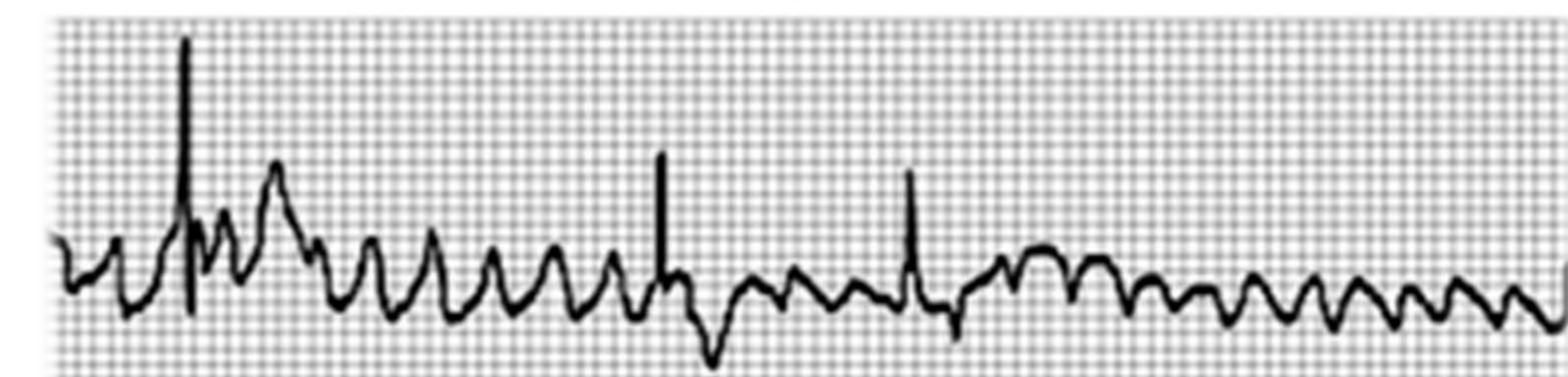
We undertook a prospective study of all patients in our institution who were prescribed antipsychotics (BNF Chapter 4.2). Patients were identified from real-time dispensing information which was used by a specialist pharmacist to drive a ward based clinical pharmacy review. If an ADR was suspected, consent was gained and a referral to the hospitals liaison psychiatric team generated. Results were recorded in line with national [Caldicott] ethical guidelines.

### Results

During the study period (17/09/2012 to 28/10/2013), 312 patients prescribed antipsychotic medicines were admitted. Thirty one patients (10%) were referred to the hospitals liaison psychiatry team due to concerns over ADRs, of which the majority (24, 77%) were generated by the specialist pharmacist. Following referral, 21 of the 31 patients had their antipsychotic medication altered. It was stopped in 11 patients and doses reduced in a further 10.



Normal ECG



Atrial Fibrillation

### Conclusions

An admission related ADR was identified in 10% of the patients prescribed antipsychotic medicines, with cardiovascular effects being the most common ADR noted. The pharmacist was pivotal in this process and detected the majority. Following psychiatric assessment 67% of patients had their medication doses adjusted in response to the identified reaction. Early identification and psychiatric referral is essential to facilitate a decision that balances the patients mental and physical health needs. Pharmacists working in the acute sector should be mindful that antipsychotic medication may contribute to admissions. A close relationship with psychiatric services can facilitate medication review and prevent harm.

### References

1. BMJ Group and Pharmaceutical Press. British National Formulary; 68, 2014.
2. Pirmohamed M et al. Adverse drug reactions as cause of admission to hospital: prospective analysis of 18,820 patients. BMJ 2004;3(329).