

Rapidly increasing use of proton pump inhibitors prescribed in primary care

A nationwide observational study

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AIM

To analyse development in prescription pattern of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) in Denmark 2001-2011 and to assess the impact of reimbursement modifications made in 2009 to reduce costs related to use of PPIs and to rationalise the use.

Indications rated as adequate for PPIs according to European Medicines Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use

Peptic ulcer (treatment and prevention of relapse (if *Helicobacter pylori*-negative or resistant *Helicobacter pylori*))

Reflux oesophagitis (treatment, including long-term management after healing)

Eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* in combination with antibiotics

Symptomatic gastrooesophageal reflux disease

Zollinger-Ellison's Syndrome

Prophylaxis of medication-associated gastric and duodenal ulcer in patients at risk* requiring continuous NSAID-treatment (including ASA)

*risk factors: age above 65, previous ulcer, presence of cardiovascular disease, concurrent use of systemic corticosteroids, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, anticoagulants, platelet aggregation inhibitors.

METHOD

The Register of Medicinal Product Statistics includes all sales and redeemed prescriptions nationwide covering the entire Danish population of currently 5.5 million inhabitants. The register was searched September 2012 for information about prescriptions for PPIs redeemed by grown-ups.

CONCLUSION

Use of PPIs has increased considerably the past decade, possibly due to a growing number of long-term users. Reimbursement modifications do not seem to have had a substantial influence on the steadily increasing use.

RESULTS

Of the total use of PPIs 94 % was prescribed in primary care. A total of 57 % of the users were female.

