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Side Effect Profile of Antispasmodic Medications

Topic: Pharmacological Agents

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BACKGROUND

This study investigates the side effect profile of antispasmodic drugs and examines their relationship with age and gender.

METHODS

This is a cross-sectional descriptive study. Between 2022-2025, patients with cerebral pathologies and spinal cord injuries, who were receiving neurological rehabilitation in our clinic, were evaluated for antispasmodic drug use and side effects. The study included 41 patients, and their demographic characteristics were recorded. The patients were contacted via personal phone numbers, and their use of antispasmodic drugs and related side effects were queried.

RESULTS

The study included 25 male patients (60.97%) and 16 female patients (39.02%). Among the 41 patients, 36.5% (n = 15) used baclofen, 7.31% (n = 3) used tizanidine, 12.19% (n = 5) used tolperisone, 26.82% (n = 11) used pregabalin, 14.63% (n = 6) used gabapentin, and 2.43% (n = 1) used diazepam.

A significant relationship was found between age and the total number of side effects (p = 0.043). Frequencies were calculated. When patients were grouped by gender, a significant difference was observed in age, but no significant difference in total side effects between genders was found. A significant difference was found in age distribution between genders, with female patients having a higher average age.

The most common side effects were: 34.1% (n = 14) dry mouth. 9.8% (n = 4) dizziness, 7.3% (n = 3) headache, 19.5% (n = 8) attention disturbance, 2.4% (n = 1) hallucination, 48.8% (n = 20) fatigue/drowsiness, 17.1% (n = 7) insomnia, 22% (n = 9) anxiety, 4.9% (n = 2) fall on the verge of seizure, 4.9% (n = 2) respiratory depression, 17.1% (n = 7) muscle weakness, 2.4% (n = 1) ataxia, 2.4% (n = 1) urinary incontinence, 2.4% (n = 1) sexual dysfunction, 17.1% (n = 7) hypotension, 31.7% (n = 13) weight gain, 17.1% (n = 7) dependency, 2.4% (n = 1) visual disturbances. No hepatotoxic side effects were observed.

CONCLUSION

Total side effects statistically increase with age. The most common side effect in 41 patients was fatigue and drowsiness. The least common side effects were hallucinations, visual disturbances, ataxia, and urinary incontinence. The aim of this study is to familiarize physicians with the side effects of commonly used antispasmodic drugs.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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