Drug-drug interactions in common mental disorders patients attended in primary health care

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OBJECTIVES

- The objectives of this research were:
- to compare potential drug-drug interactions (DDIs) frequency and characterization among Common Mental Disorders (CMD) patients;
 - to verify associations between CMD with potential DDIs, demographic, use of psychoactive drugs, number of medication prescribed and severity of potential DDIs.

BACKGROUND

High-risk interactions occur mostly with narrow therapeutic index drugs, which includes many psychotropic medications. Primary Health Care (PHC) plays an important role in Brazilian health assistance to CMD patients. However, there are few studies regarding DDI in CMD patients in PHC settings.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- This is a quantitative, cross-sectional and descriptive correlational study carried in PHC services in Brazil.
- It was interviewed a stratified sample of 430 patients.
- Statistics was performed using univariate and multivariate analysis having CMD as dependent variable.

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RESULTS

- 190 patients had more than two medications prescribed, being eligible to the analysis.
- Among them 58.4% had DDI and 53.1% had CMD.
- 28% of the patients presented severe potential DDI in their prescription.
- Moderate DDI was observed in 62.9% of the prescriptions
- Associations with CMD were found between age, monthly income, psychotropic medication and severity of DDI.

Table 1. Distribution of patients treated at PHC according to presenting potential DDI classified for severity according to Self-Report Questionnaire-20 result (n = 190)

DDI Severity	Self-Report Questionnaire-20 result			P value
	No	Yes	Total	
Severe	15 (26,3%)	25 (46,3%)	40 (36.03%)	<0,01
Moderate	42 (73,7%)	25 (46,3%)	67 (60.36%)	
Light	0 (0%)	4 (7,4%)	4 (3.6%)	
Total	57 (100%)	54 (100%)	111 (100%)	

Table 2. Distribution of potentially severe drug interactions with greater absolute frequency equal or more than two, detected in patients (n = 190) treated in primary health care according to Common Mental Disorders.

Drug-drug interaction	Self Report Questionnaire result		
	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	Total N (%)
Anlodipine + simvastatin	5 (41.66%)	2 (10%)	7 (21.9%)
Amitriptiline + levothyroxine	2 (16.66%)	4 (20%)	6 (18.8%)
Amitriptiline + fluoxetine	-	4 (20%)	4 (12.5%)
Fluoxetine + propranolol	-	4 (20%)	4 (12.5%)
Amitriptiline + clonidine	1 (8.33%)	2 (10 %)	3 (9.4%)
Fluoxetine + haloperidol	-	2 (10 %)	2 (6.3%)
Amiodarone + simvastatin	2 (16.66%)	-	2 (6.3%)
Carbamazepine +simvastatin	1 (8.33%)	1 (5%)	2 (6.3%)
Amitriptiline + sertraline	1 (8.33%)	1 (5%)	2 (6.3%)
Total	12 (100%)	20 (100%)	32 (100%)

CONCLUSIONS

The results found highlight the risk for DDI in CMD patients emphasizing the urgent need of the investigation and implementation of strategies aiming this public.