In-hospital adverse drug reactions in hospitalised older adults - a systematic review

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In-Hospital Adverse Drug Reactions in Hospitalised Older Adults: A Systematic Review

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Introduction

- Almost ten percent of older-adults experience an adverse drug reaction (ADR) associated with acute hospitalisation.
- Individual studies suggest that up to 1 in 4 experience an ADR in hospital.

This systematic review (SR) aims to evaluate in-hospital ADRs in hospitalised older-adults; frequency, culprit drug classes, severity, and clinical consequence.

Methods

This SR was conducted following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) (Moher et al., 2009). Two researchers (EI, JF) screened all papers for inclusion, risk of bias and data extraction independently.

Registration

- PROSPERO registration CRD42018079095

Search Strategy

- Search term stems – aged, ADRs, hospitalised, multimorbidity, polypharmacy and hospital-acquired [search strategy available on request from author].
- Bibliographic hand searches of relevant editorials and systematic reviews.

Paper Inclusion/Exclusion

- All languages.
- All dates up to and including the date of the final search [15/02/2018] were eligible.
- Any study that reported on ADRs either as a primary or secondary outcome in those aged 65 years or older that were hospitalised at time of ADR occurrence.
  - Review articles, systematic reviews, case reports and letters to the editor were subsequently excluded – their bibliography was hand searched for suitable studies.
  - When data reported was for all ages, but there was evidence of 65 cohort the author was contacted requesting data for those aged 65 and over.
  - A template document for completion was provided.
  - Two attempts were made to the listed author, followed by an attempt to contact a co-author.

Study Quality / Risk of Bias Assessment

Include studies were assessed for risk of bias and quality studies.
- Cochrane for randomised controlled trials
- STROBE checklist for case cohort studies
- Newcastle-Ottawa Scale for non-randomised studies

Data Extraction

We extracted data to assess percentage of study cohort ≥ 65 that experienced an ADR, reported presentation of ADRs. Drugs deemed accountable, ADR severity, ADR preventability, any measured outcomes.

Study selection – see PRISMA Diagram [Figure 1.]

1930 abstracts were identified, 1,779 were screened, 228 underwent full-text screening. 23 papers reporting 22 studies were included [1-11]. ADRs in participants ≥ 65 years, 11 ADRs of age adults (extractable data for ≥65 available in 5 studies, supplemental data provided by authors in 6 studies).

Characteristics of Included Studies

21,306 patients were included in the 22 studies; 15,769 (74%) were aged ≥65 years. 50% male, 50% female (reported in 18 studies). Polypharmacy (reported as a mean/median ≥5 medications at baseline) was reported and present in 12 studies. Multi-morbidity (reported as a mean/median of diagnoses ≥3 at baseline) was reported in 9 and present in 8 studies.

ADR Rates

22 Studies reported ADR incidence – ≥1186 patients ≥65 experienced ADRs in-hospital. Median 19.77% [IQR 10.44 – 25.35] Min 4.95% Max 42.19%.

Reported ADR Presentation

16 studies reported on ADR presentation (n = 13,217, 1,403 ADR presentations). 20% (283) metabolism and nutritional disorders; 17% (246) nervous system disorders; 15% (210) cardiac disorders; 13% (185) gastrointestinal disorders; 10% (148) renal and urinary disorders; 6% (80) blood and lymphatic system disorders.

ADR Drugs

ADR associated drugs were extractable in 15 papers (1528 reported drugs in 1253 ADR patients). 85% of ADRs were associated with 11 commonly prescribed medications.

ADR Severity

14 studies reported severity (n = 13,171; reported ADRs = 1,947). 72% of reported ADRs were at least of moderate severity. 29% (560 ADRs) were severe.

ADR Preventability

5 studies assessed preventability (n = 3602, reporting 672 ADRs), 69% of reported ADRs were preventable.

Outcomes

5 papers reported on post ADR outcomes [3 length of stay [LOS], 1 LOS-death, 1 functional decline].

Results

1 in 5 patients ≥ 65 years experience a clinically significant ADR in-hospital

11 commonly prescribed drug classes account for 85% of ADRs

- Diuretics 22%
- Anti-thrombotics 14%
- Antimicrobials 12%
- Opioids 11%
- Psychotropics 6%
- Drugs used in diabetes 4%
- ACE-I, ARBs 4%
- Systemic corticosteroids 3%
- Drugs for obstructive airway disease 3%
- Cardiac glycosides 3%
- Anti-hypertensives 3%

1 in 4 in-hospital ADRs is severe

At least 2 of 3 in-hospital ADRs are preventable

Conclusion:

- There is a lack of consistency in methodologies used for ADR identification, assessment and reporting in the literature.
- Incident ADRs occurring in-hospital in older adults (≥ 65 years) are common, occurring in 1 in 5 hospitalised older adults.
- 11 commonly prescribed drug classes account for 85% of all ADRs.
- 1 in 4 ADRs are severe.
- 2 of 3 ADRs could be preventable.
- Despite this, there is under-reporting of measurable clinical outcomes associated with ADRs.
- Development of drug based ADR prediction tools may lead to better ADR prevention.