

Medication Related Problems in an Older Population

Maryam Khaki^a, Balamurugan Tangiisuran^b, Graham Davies^a.

^a*Department of Pharmacy, King's College London, 150 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH UK.*

^b*School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Minden, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.*

Objective Identification of data regarding the frequency of medication related problems amongst pensioners attending Pusat Sejahtera, Universiti Sains Malaysia Clinic. This report is the first known study looking at medication related problems amongst pensioners in Malaysia.

Methods A retrospective observational medical record review was undertaken between October and November 2012. All patients over the age of 50 who attended the clinic in 2012 were included. Cases of medication related problems were analysed and sub-divided using validated PCNE guidelines, within which cases of adverse drug reactions were further categorised by the Naranjo probability scale and Hallas' criteria. Predictions of ten-year survival were also made using The Charlson comorbidity index. **Key Findings** Only 11 cases (2%) of the 447 reviewed were found to have experienced medication related problems, of which 8 were caused by adverse drug reactions, 3 of which were unavoidable. Drugs used to treat the cardiovascular system were found to be the most prevalent cause of medication related problems with 8 cases, and medication related problems were more likely when a patient was taking a drug from the respiratory BNF category. **Conclusion** Encouragingly, only a small number of patients suffered medication related problems, which may reflect an underestimation owing to a non-integrated data storage system at the clinic. Due to such a small data set, statistical analysis was not significant, indicating that further work is required in a larger community setting, where it is likely that a greater number of medication related problems would be seen.