

ABCD study: Anticholinergics, Benzodiazepines, Cognition and Dementia

<https://neurodegenerationresearch.eu/survey/abcd-study-anticholinergics-benzodiazepines-cognition-and-dementia/>

Principal Investigators

Dr George Savva

Institution

University of East Anglia

Contact information of lead PI Country

United Kingdom

Title of project or programme

ABCD study: Anticholinergics, Benzodiazepines, Cognition and Dementia

Source of funding information

Alzheimer's Society

Total sum awarded (Euro)

€ 431,453

Start date of award

01/10/2014

Total duration of award in years

3.0

The project/programme is most relevant to:

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

Keywords

Research Abstract

Background and aims: Anticholinergic medications (AChI) and benzodiazepines including Z-drugs (BZD) are commonly used by older people. AChI and BZD impair cognition while they are being used. We will establish whether there is an associated increase in the risk of dementia and whether cognitive impairment persists beyond medication cessation.

Objectives and Methods: We will use data on medication use and cognitive function/dementia

from five sources, the Clinical Practice Research Datalink, the Medical Research Council Cognitive Function and Ageing Study (MRC CFAS) 1, MRC CFAS 2, The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing and the MRC CFAS neuropathology study. These studies have different strengths and we will use them to estimate:

- whether AChI/BZD use increases dementia risk, and how this depends on the level of use
- how long any excess risk persists after cessation
- whether the risk is restricted to a subgroup of anticholinergic medications, and whether z-drugs differ from benzodiazepines in dementia risk.
- how memory and non-memory cognitive domains are affected by duration of current medication use
- whether impaired cognition persists, returns to pre-medication levels or continues to decline following medication cessation and how this depends on duration and level of use
- neuropathological correlates of AChI/BZD use.

Outcomes: Our findings will contribute to prescribing guidance and practice for management of many common long term conditions. If our findings support an effect of AChI/BZD on dementia, then the benefits and harms of reduction or avoidance of such medication use should be tested as an intervention to reduce dementia incidence.

Lay Summary

Further information available at:

Types:

Investments > €500k

Member States:

United Kingdom

Diseases:

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

Years:

2016

Database Categories:

N/A

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