

Alcohol Use Disorder and Treatment in Ontario Between 2011 and 2013

A Report by the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network

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Conflict of Interest Statement

No study members report any affiliations or financial involvement (e.g., employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock options, expert testimony, grants or patents received or pending, or royalties) that may present a potential conflict of interest.

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The study was approved by the research ethics board of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, Ontario Canada

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****Update****

This report was updated on November 25, 2015 to revise the diagnostic codes used for define alcohol use disorders

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Objective

This report aims to provide preliminary data on the use of first-line medications for Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) among public drug plan beneficiaries with a diagnosis of AUD in Ontario.

Methods

Setting

We conducted a retrospective cohort study among individuals aged 18 and older who were eligible for the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program and who had a hospital visit (inpatient or emergency department) with an AUD diagnosis (Appendix A) between April 2011 and March 2012.

Data Sources

Information regarding a diagnosis for AUD was abstracted from the Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database (CIHI-DAD) and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (CIHI-NACRS). Public drug plan eligibility status and prescription claims for first-line AUD medications were obtained from the ODB database. The Registered Persons Database (RPDB) was used to make cohort exclusions. These datasets were linked using unique encoded identifiers and analyzed at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES). Datasets provided by ICES were linked using unique encoded identifiers and analyzed at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

Study Drugs

First-line AUD medications: Naltrexone and Acamprosate

Key Findings

Between April 2011 and March 2012, 15,683 individuals eligible for the ODB program with an AUD diagnosis were identified, 66.3% (N=10,394) of whom were under the age of 65. Of those under 65 years of age, 0.36% (N=37) were dispensed a prescription for a first-line AUD medication within a year of their diagnosis. Of those 65 years of age and older, less than 6 were dispensed a prescription for a first-line AUD medication within a year of their diagnosis.

Conclusions

A small proportion of individuals with a hospital AUD diagnosis receive a first-line AUD medication within a year. Further research is needed to describe characteristics of these individuals more thoroughly.

Appendix

Appendix A: ICD10 codes for diagnosis of AUD

ICD10 code	Description
F104	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, withdrawal state with delirium
F106	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, amnesic syndrome
F107	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, residual and late-onset psychotic disorder
F105	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, psychotic disorder
F108	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, other mental and behavioural disorders
F103	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, withdrawal state
F109	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, unspecified mental and behavioural disorder
F102	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, dependence syndrome
G312	Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol
F101	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, harmful use
F100	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, acute intoxication
G621	Alcoholic polyneuropathy
I426	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K292	Alcoholic gastritis
K700	Alcoholic fatty liver
K701	Alcoholic hepatitis
K703	Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver
K702	Alcoholic fibrosis and sclerosis of liver
K709	Alcoholic liver disease, unspecified
R780	Finding of alcohol in blood
T510	Toxic effect of ethanol
F104	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, withdrawal state with delirium