Background and Aims The availability of appropriate medicines for pediatric patients remains a challenge in any Health System. To evaluate the extent of this limitation in Portugal, the INFARMED, I.P., conducted the present study aiming at 1) knowing which extemporaneous formulations were prepared/used in hospital settings and 2) identifying which of these have a liquid formulation medicine available in Portugal, EU or USA.

Methods A cross sectional study was performed in nine Hospitals in Portugal regarding the collection of 2010 data on the use and production of extemporaneous formulations. The information was gathered trough a questionnaire. Data analysis was restricted to medicines with more than 1000 formulations prepared or prescribed to more than 100 patients.

Results Thirty three medicines met the defined criteria. They were included in groups A and C of the ATC classification (Alimentary Tract and Metabolism and Cardiovascular System) with 8/35 (24.24%) each, followed by Anti-infectives for Systemic Use and Nervous System with 5/35(15.15%) each. It was realized that 20 (75.76%) have a licensed oral liquid formulation either in Portugal, EU or USA. In Portugal 7 (21.21%) have or had a market authorization no longer available due to industrial ending. In addition, different hospitals prepare the same medicine in different formulations.

Conclusions The results confirmed the needs of Portugal in this area, identified potential lack of interest of the industry and recommend that strong action should be taken by the Regulatory Authority in the implementation of industrial manufacture authorization of small GMP batches of these medicines.

1537 PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY OF OCULAR PRESCRIPTIONS IN PEDIATRIC OUTPATIENTS IN PORDENONE PROVINCE

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G Montanari, P Schiaulini. Clinical Research Department, FIMP Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sacile, Italy

Background and Aims The use of ocular drugs in paediatrics is often "off-label", concerning both safety in relation to the age and efficacy. For this reason we have deemed it necessary to examine prescribing habits of family paediatricians (pdf).

Methods Each pdf of Pordenone province (315.323 inhabitants) was sent a questionnaire where it was requested to list the ocular drugs usually prescribed, why they were prescribed and any side effect observed. They were also requested to confirm any use of dietary supplements or other medical devices.

Results All 35 pdf (34.440 children, aged 0–14 years) filled in the questionnaire. The most commonly prescribed drugs were antibiotics, anti-histamine agents and mast cell stabilizers for bacterial and allergic conjunctivitis. Only topical drugs were used. Children affected by serious ocular diseases were referred to ophthalmologists and of these only four assumed drugs for vernal keratoconjunctivitis and glaucoma (cyclosporine, timolol, dorzolamide and bimatoprost). Only minor adverse reactions (conjunctival hyperaemia, lid swelling) were found, even if potentially dangerous drug associations are still used (i.e. associations with steroids and/or sympathomimetic decongestants). No dietary supplements or medical devices were prescribed.

Conclusions Many ocular drugs lack reliable proof of efficacy and safety in paediatrics but fortunately their use outside the hospital seems limited. Nevertheless their use can probably be improved. Our research confirms the need to widen clinical studies of ocular drugs in paediatrics, not only concerning limited controlled trials but also their rational use.

1538 USE OF PROPRANOLOL FOR TREATING EPISTAXIS - FIRST EXPERIENCES

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1B Bjelakovic, 2M Bojanovic, 3S Lukic, 4Z Kostic, 2V Zvokovic, 3V Yukomanovic, 3S Prijic, 2B Marinovic. 1Clinic of Pediatrics, Clinical Center, Medical Faculty, University of Nis; 2Clinic of Otorhinolaryngology, Clinical Center, Medical Faculty, University of Nis; 3Clinic of Neurology, Clinical Center, Medical Faculty, University of Nis; 4Institute of Pathology, Medical Faculty, University of Nis, Mother and Child Health Institute, Dr Vukan Cupic, Belgrade; 6Clinic of Otorhinolaryngology, Clinical Center, Nis, Serbia

Background and Aim Melatonin is not licensed for children in UK. Limited evidence is available about its efficacy and safety. We assessed parents’ satisfaction with melatonin for treatment of sleep problems in children.

Methods 27 children who were prescribed melatonin by community paediatricians at Bedford, UK were randomly selected. Structured questionnaire was given to their parents.

Results

1. Parents’ overall assessment of response to melatonin treatment - Good (63%), Average (33%), Poor (4%).
2. Analysis of age group of children with good response: 1–5 years (3 out of 5 children i.e. 100%), 6–10 years (7/12 i.e. 58%), 11–16 years (7/10 i.e. 70%), Over 16 years (0/2 i.e. 0%).
3. Effect on sleep when melatonin was stopped (in 18 children) - worsening (72%), same (28%), improvement (0%).
4. All the children had associated problems - 51% behavioural (autism, ADHD), 19% structural/chromosomal. 41% were in mainstream school, 55% special need school and 4% left school.
5. Improvement in behaviour secondary to improvement in sleep - yes (26%), No (74%).
6. Improvement in quality of life of parents secondary to fewer interruptions to their sleep - Yes (77%), No (23%).
7. Only 1 child had side effects including headache, confusion and tiredness while taking melatonin. He was on high dose of 10 mg/day.

Conclusion Most parents reported improvement in sleep of their children after being started on melatonin. Also majority reported better quality of life due to less interruption to their sleep.

1539 LENGTH OF HOSPITAL STAY IN CHILDREN WITH ACUTE VIRAL PNEUMONIA TREATED WITH CORTICOSTEROIDS, A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

doi:10.1136/archdischild-2012-302724.1539

A Gupta, C Varthaman. Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge; 1Bedford Community Paediatrics, Bedford, UK

Background and Aims Melatonin is not licensed for children in UK. Limited evidence is available about its efficacy and safety. We assessed parents’ satisfaction with melatonin for treatment of sleep problems in children.

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