

Short Communication

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The Medicines Used for Control Diabetes in Brazil: Data from a National Survey



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Abstract

Aim: Describe the use of hypoglycemic agents, among people with diabetes in Brazil.

Methods: Data from the National Survey on Access, Use and Promotion of the Rational Use of Medicines in Brazil were used to establish the prevalence of medicines to control diabetes among participants. Results: The Biguanides (54.2%) and the Sulfonylureas (29.1%) were the most reported drugs used for the control of diabetes. The insulin and analogues was used by 13.9% of participants.

Conclusion: Brazil has a high rate of access to medicines to control diabetes. The rate of the use of Insulin needs improvement.

Keywords: Pharmacoepidemiology; Diabetes; Hypoglycemic agents; Health care access

Background and Aims

Since the early 2000s Brazil has been structuring programs for the healthcare of people with diabetes; With regard to medicines, in 2006 a federal law was passed to ensure, by the government, the access to medicines and supplies needed for the treatment of diabetes [1]. Our objective is to describe the rate of the access and the hypoglycemic agents used among people with diabetes in Brazil.

Methods

During 2013-2014 the National Survey on Access, Use and Promotion of the Rational Use of Medicines in Brazil, with acronym PNAUM, was realized [2]. The survey is designed to be representative of the Brazil urban and noninstitutionalized population, on the basis of a complex, multistage probability sample. Survey participants are interviewed in their homes after signing the Informed Consent Term. The prevalence rates from the survey were weighted to ensure national and regional representation. Overall participants of the survey, we selected that which self-reported diabetes with 20 years old or more to realize this study. The prevalence of diabetes was 6.8%

among participants. Data from medicines were self-reported and confirmed by showing the prescription or the packing of the drugs in use. The medicines for the control of diabetes are described by ATC Classification [3], on chemical subgroups – 4th level. The research was approved by the National Ethical Committee.

Results

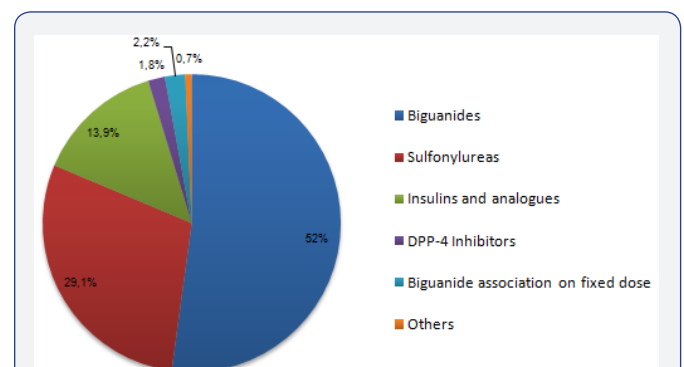


Figure 1: Frequency of antidiabetics use among self-reported people with diabetes (N=8,978,937). PNAUM, Brazil, 2013-14.

Most participants (85.8%) had indication for treatment with Blood glucose lowering medicines (excluded insulin), among these, 92.7% reported the use of one or more medicines. 18,1% reported the prescription of insulin, however, only 87,9% these were in regular use. Considering all medicines used for treatment with Blood glucose lowering medicines, the Biguanides was the most reported, alone (52%) or in fixed dose associations (2.2%), then, the Sulfonylureas (29,1%). The insulin and analogues was used by 13,9% of participants. The utilization of new medicines was low among the participants shown in Figure 1.

Conclusion

The Brazilian government finances metformin, glibenclamide, glicazide and insulin (regular and NPH). We observed a high rate of diabetes treatment among participants, what indicates a good access to medicines. However, insulin prescription was lower than recommended by clinical protocols, for example 25% by American Diabetes Association [4], probably related to the fears and myths associated to its use.

Acknowledgement

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