

Persistence with pharmacological treatment in the specialist mental healthcare of patients with severe mental disorders (Persistence of treatment in mental patients)

First published: 12/12/2012

Last updated: 13/03/2025

Study

Finalised

Administrative details

EU PAS number

EUPAS3209

Study ID

3210

DARWIN EU® study

No

Study countries

 Italy

Study description

PURPOSE: The aim of this study was to measure persistence with pharmacological treatment in the specialist mental healthcare of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and unipolar depression in Lombardy, a region of 10 million inhabitants located in the northernmost part of Italy.**METHODS:** The data concerning psychiatric care used in this study were retrieved from the regional Psychiatric Information System, while information on drug treatment was retrieved from the regional administrative database. Time to lack of persistence with initial pharmacological treatment was the outcome measure.**RESULTS:** A total of 11,797 patients, followed in the specialist mental healthcare system, started a new pharmacological treatment for depression, schizophrenia, or bipolar disorder during 2007. Overall, 8,500 patients (72.1%) discontinued treatment during the 12 month follow-up, with a median duration of 101 days. Very similar discontinuation rates were observed in patients with unipolar depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. In the multivariate analysis, operational definitions of continuity and intensity of care were the most robust determinants of persistence with drug treatment in each of the three cohorts of psychiatric diagnoses.**CONCLUSIONS:** High rates of treatment discontinuation were found in a population of patients with severe mental disorders followed in the specialist mental healthcare system of an Italian region, with no differences among patients with unipolar major depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. These findings corroborate the notion that the problem of treatment discontinuation in psychiatric disorders is a factor related to the capacity of the mental health system to assure and maintain continuity and intensity of care.

Study status

Finalised

Research institutions and networks

Institutions

Centro Regionale di Farmacovigilanza (PhV Regional Centre of Lombardy, Italy), Regione Lombardia

 Italy

First published: 09/02/2010

Last updated: 14/03/2018

Institution

Outdated

Other

ENCePP partner

Centro Regionale di Farmacovigilanza (PhV Regional Centre of Lombardy, Italy), Regione Lombardia

 Italy

First published: 09/02/2010

Last updated: 14/03/2018

Institution

Outdated

Other

ENCePP partner

Pharmacology Unit - Veneto Pharmacovigilance Centre (Pharmacol UNIVR), University Hospital Verona

 Italy

First published: 25/10/2022

Last updated: 13/03/2025

Institution

Educational Institution

Hospital/Clinic/Other health care facility

ENCePP partner

Institute of Psychiatry, University of Verona

Verona, Italy, Lecco Hospital Lecco, Italy

Contact details

Study institution contact

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Study contact

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Primary lead investigator

Valentino Conti

Primary lead investigator

Study timelines

Date when funding contract was signed

Planned: 01/01/2011

Actual: 01/01/2011

Study start date

Planned: 01/01/2011

Actual: 01/01/2011

Data analysis start date

Planned: 01/06/2011

Actual: 01/06/2011

Date of final study report

Planned: 01/03/2012

Actual: 01/03/2012

Sources of funding

- Other

More details on funding

Lombardy Region, University of Verona, Lecco Hospital

Study protocol

[persistence_protocol.pdf](#) (544.54 KB)

Regulatory

Was the study required by a regulatory body?

No

Is the study required by a Risk Management Plan (RMP)?

Not applicable

Methodological aspects

Study type

Study type list

Study topic:

Disease /health condition

Human medicinal product

Study type:

Non-interventional study

Scope of the study:

Drug utilisation

Data collection methods:

Secondary use of data

Main study objective:

To measure persistence with pharmacological treatment in the specialist mental healthcare of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and unipolar depression in Lombardy, a region of 10 million inhabitants located in the northernmost part of Italy.

Study Design

Non-interventional study design

Cohort

Study drug and medical condition

Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code

(N06A) ANTIDEPRESSANTS

ANTIDEPRESSANTS

(N05A) ANTIPSYCHOTICS

ANTIPSYCHOTICS

(N03A) ANTIEPILEPTICS

ANTIEPILEPTICS

Population studied

Short description of the study population

Patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and unipolar depression in Lombardy who in an index period (January 1st to December 31st 2007) have received at least one psychiatric service and have one of the diagnoses of interest and have taken at least one prescription appropriate (antidepressants for depression, antipsychotics for schizophrenia, stabilizers medications/antipsychotics for bipolar disorder).

Age groups

- Adults (18 to < 46 years)
- Adults (46 to < 65 years)
- Adults (65 to < 75 years)
- Adults (75 to < 85 years)

The use of the ENCePP Seal has been discontinued since February 2025. The ENCePP Seal fields are retained in the display mode for transparency but are no longer maintained.

Conflicts of interest of investigators

[persistence_Conflict_of_Interest_Form Conti.pdf](#) (177.05 KB)

Composition of steering group and observers

[Persistence Steering Group.pdf](#) (161.2 KB)

Data sources

Data sources (types)

[Administrative healthcare records \(e.g., claims\)](#)

[Other](#)

Data sources (types), other

Regional Psychiatric Information System, Regional Hospital Discharge Registry, Regional Prescription Database

Use of a Common Data Model (CDM)

CDM mapping

No

Data quality specifications

Check conformance

Unknown

Check completeness

Unknown

Check stability

Unknown

Check logical consistency

Unknown

Data characterisation

Data characterisation conducted

No