Impact of EU label changes and pregnancy prevention programme for medicinal products containing valproate and related substances: risk awareness and adherence (ValproateRiskAware)

First published: 24/01/2020

Last updated: 08/12/2025

Study Finalised

Administrative details

EU PAS number

EUPAS32405

Study ID

49662

DARWIN EU® study

No

Study countries

Belgium

Denmark

Greece

Latvia

Netherlands

Portugal

Slovenia

Spain

Study description

This is a multi-country study in eight European countries: Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Latvia, Portugal, The Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain. In each country a web-based questionnaire will be conducted among users and former users of valproate and related products, and among health care professionals. An electronic survey including questions on the influence of regulatory recommendations on HCP awareness about the teratogenic and neurodevelopment effects of valproate and related substances will be used to gauge their perspective and to assess effects on knowledge, attitudes and practices. Similary a patient questionnaire will measure awareness about regulatory recommendations as well as uptake of pregnancy prevention measures, and investigate their effect on valproate use. Data from the survey and questionnaire will be anonymised and analysed for differences between countries. Determinants for adherence to the measures implemented per country will be analysed. Additionally, in two countries (Netherlands and Portugal) semi-structured telephone interviews will be held with 6-8 patients with a range in age and varied educational background.

Study status

Finalised

Research institutions and networks

Institutions

Division of Pharmacoepidemiology & Clinical Pharmacology (PECP), Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences (UIPS), Utrecht University

Netherlands

First published: 01/03/2010

Last updated: 27/05/2026

Institution | Educational Institution | ENCePP partner

Division of Pharmacoepidemiology & Clinical Pharmacology (PECP), Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences (UIPS), Utrecht University

Netherlands

First published: 01/03/2010

Last updated: 27/05/2026

Institution | Educational Institution | ENCePP partner

Porto Pharmacovigilance Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto (UFPorto)

Portugal

First published: 17/11/2010

Last updated: 12/06/2023

Institution | Educational Institution | ENCePP partner

Department of Medicine/Laboratory of Hygiene and Environmental Protection, Democritus University of Thrace

Greece

First published: 30/11/2022

Last updated: 05/12/2022

Institution | Educational Institution | ENCePP partner

The Institute of Public Health of Riga Stradins University Riga, Latvia, University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Department of Pharmacy (Social and Clinical Pharmacy) Copenhagen, Denmark, Sección de Innovación y Organización, Servicio Navarro de Salud Pamplona, Spain, Pharmaceutical Care Unit – Ghent University Ghent, Belgium, Centre for

Health Protection, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment Bilthoven, Netherlands

Networks

EU Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance (PE&PV) Research Network

Netherlands

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Network

Contact details

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Primary lead investigator

Olaf Klungel

Primary lead investigator

Study timelines

Date when funding contract was signed
Planned: 25/02/2019

Actual: 25/02/2019

Study start date
Planned: 25/10/2019

Actual: 25/10/2019

Data analysis start date
Planned: 25/12/2019

Date of interim report, if expected
Planned: 24/07/2020

Date of final study report
Planned: 28/08/2020

Actual: 01/04/2021

Sources of funding

- EMA

Study protocol

29-01-2020 Protocol valproate study version 2.0 final with annexes.pdf (634.51 KB)

Regulatory

Was the study required by a regulatory body?

Yes

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

Not applicable

Methodological aspects

Study type

Study type list

Study topic:

Human medicinal product

Study type:

Non-interventional study

Scope of the study:

Assessment of risk minimisation measure implementation or effectiveness

Drug utilisation

Effectiveness study (incl. comparative)

Data collection methods:

Primary data collection

Main study objective:

1) To assess the extent of the influence of recommendations from regulatory authorities on patients', prescribers' and pharmacists' awareness about the risk of adverse teratogenic effects and neurodevelopmental disorders to children of women exposed to valproate and related substances during pregnancy, and to investigate whether knowledge, attitudes and practices have been affected.

Study Design

Non-interventional study design

Cross-sectional

Other

Non-interventional study design, other

Health care professional study, Patient study

Study drug and medical condition

Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code

(N03AG01) valproic acid

valproic acid

Population studied

Short description of the study population

Health care professionals (both GPs and specialists) and community pharmacists who had prescribed valproate and related products among women in childbearing age from 8 European countries: Belgium, Denmark, Greece,

Latvia, Portugal, The Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain. Midwives may be included, if they have had experience with at least one woman treated with valproate and related products.
Inclusion criteria:
• female aged between 15-50 years
• having used valproate or related products in the past 5 years or are currently using

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Age groups

- Adolescents (12 to < 18 years)
- Adults (18 to < 46 years)
- Adults (46 to < 65 years)

Special population of interest

Women of childbearing potential not using contraception
Women of childbearing potential using contraception

Estimated number of subjects

400

Study design details

Data analysis plan

The surveys will generate descriptive statistics, describing the distribution of characteristics of patients and HCPs for the variables included in the questionnaires. Univariate and bivariate analyses will be conducted according to stratifying variables, including HCP characteristics (age, gender, country, specialism, years of experience) and patient characteristics (age, diagnosis, past use of valproate and related products, type of prescriber, country) For the qualitative data, the analysis involves an inductive content analysis based on a

close line-by-line reading of the responses and developing a conceptual coding scheme based on the major themes in the interview guides. Transcripts will be categorized individually by two coders in each country in native languages. Coders from all countries will meet prior to the analysis to predefine categories and codes to be used. They meet again to evaluate the categories identified and to write up the results using illustrative quotes.

Documents

Study results

ValproateRiskAware summary.pdf (196.49 KB)

Study report

ValproateRiskAware study report_revised final2.pdf (2.29 MB)

Data management

Data sources

Data sources (types)

Administrative healthcare records (e.g., claims)

Other

Data sources (types), other

Prospective patient-based data collection, Patient Organizations Networks Social Media

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