

# DARWIN EU® – Trends in utilisation of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Medications

**First published:** 19/06/2024

**Last updated:** 12/07/2024

Study

Planned

## Administrative details

### PURI

<https://redirect.ema.europa.eu/resource/1000000219>

### EU PAS number

EUPAS1000000219

### Study ID

1000000219

### DARWIN EU® study

Yes

### Study countries

Belgium

Germany

Netherlands

Spain

United Kingdom

### Study description

The overall aim of this study is to characterise the use of ADHD medications in the period of 2010 to 2023. The specific objectives are:

1. To estimate the monthly and yearly period prevalence of use of each ADHD medicine, overall and stratified by age and gender in each database.
2. To estimate the monthly, quarterly, and yearly incidence of use of each ADHD medicine, overall and stratified by age and gender in each database.

3. Among new users of each ADHD medicine, to identify the indication at the time of the initial prescribing/dispensing, overall and stratified by age, sex, and quarter.
4. Among new users of each ADHD medicine, to estimate the initial dose, cumulative dose, and time on treatment of the initial medication, overall and stratified by age, sex, indication at index, and quarter.
5. Among new users of any ADHD medicine, to estimate the total treatment duration, number of prescriptions overall and by medicine., stratified by initial medicine and quarter of the year.
6. To identify the treatment pathway of each individual who initiated an ADHD medicine, including treatment add-on, switch and concurrent medication/co-prescribing, stratify by calendar time of initiation.

## Study status

Planned

## Research institution and networks

### Institutions

Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS), University of Oxford

United Kingdom

**First published:** 01/02/2024

Last updated

01/02/2024

Institution

Educational Institution

Hospital/Clinic/Other health care facility

### Networks

Data Analysis and Real World Interrogation Network (DARWIN EU®)

Belgium

Croatia

Denmark

Estonia

Finland

France  
Germany  
Hungary  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Portugal  
Spain  
United Kingdom  
**First published:** 01/02/2024  
Last updated 11/06/2024

Network

## Contact details

### Study institution contact

Ilse Schuemie

Study contact

[study@darwin-eu.org](mailto:study@darwin-eu.org)

### Primary lead investigator

Xintong Li

Primary lead investigator

## Study timelines

### Date when funding contract was signed

Planned:

26/03/2024

Actual:

26/03/2024

### Study start date

Planned:

26/06/2024

### Data analysis start date

Planned:

12/08/2024

### Date of final study report

Planned:

30/09/2024

## Sources of funding

- EMA

## Study protocol

[DARWIN EU\\_D2.2.3\\_Protocol\\_P3-C1-004\\_DUS\\_ADHD\\_V4.pdf](#)(2.01 MB)

## 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:**

Disease /health condition

---

**Study type:**

Non-interventional study

---

**Scope of the study:**

Drug utilisation

**Data collection methods:**

Secondary data collection

---

**Study design:**

Cohort studies will be conducted using routinely collected health data from 6 databases. The study will comprise two consecutive parts (see protocol).

## Study Design

**Non-interventional study design**

Cohort

## Study drug and medical condition

**Name of medicine, other**

Lisdexamfetamine (N06BA12)

Methylphenidate (N06BA04)

Atomoxetine (ATC code: N06BA09)

Dexamfetamine (N06BA02)

Guanfacine (C02AC02)

---

**Study drug International non-proprietary name (INN) or common name**

ATOMOXETINE

GUANFACINE HYDROCHLORIDE

METHYLPHENIDATE

---

**Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code**

(C02AC02) guanfacine

(N06BA02) dexamfetamine

(N06BA04) methylphenidate

(N06BA09) atomoxetine

(N06BA12) lisdexamfetamine

---

**Medical condition to be studied**

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

---

**Additional medical condition(s)**

ADHD

## Population studied

## Short description of the study population

Population-level utilisation of ADHD medications: general population.

All people aged 3 years and older (Rocco et al. 2021), registered in the respective databases since the 1st of January of 2010 to the latest available data, with at least 365 days of prior data availability, will participate in the population-level analysis of period prevalence and incidence of ADHD medications of interest.

Patient-level utilisation of ADHD medications: new user cohort.

In objective 3 and 4, new user cohort of each ADHD medication will be created at drug substance level, using 365 days washout window.

In objective 5 and 6, new users will be identified using the first record of any of the ADHD medications of interest within the study period, having no previous records for ANY study medication any time prior to entry. The index date will be defined as the date of the first eligible medication record.

Five new user cohorts of the medications licensed for ADHD treatment will be constructed separately: the stimulants dexamphetamine, lisdexamfetamine, and methylphenidate, and the non-stimulants atomoxetine and guanfacine.

---

## Age groups

Paediatric Population (< 18 years)

Children (2 to < 12 years)

Adolescents (12 to < 18 years)

Adult and elderly population (>18 years)

Adults (18 to < 65 years)

Adults (18 to < 46 years)

Adults (46 to < 65 years)

Elderly (? 65 years)

Adults (65 to < 75 years)

Adults (75 to < 85 years)

Adults (85 years and over)

## Study design details

### Setting

This study will be conducted using routinely collected data from 6 databases in 5 European countries. All databases were previously mapped to the OMOP CDM.

## Data management

## Data sources

### Data source(s)

Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) GOLD

IPCI

The Information System for Research in Primary Care (SIDIAP)

Longitudinal Patient Data - Belgium

Disease Analyzer Germany

Base de Datos para la Investigación Farmacoepidemiológica en el Ámbito Público  
(Pharmacoepidemiological Research Database for Public Health Systems)

## Use of a Common Data Model (CDM)

### CDM mapping

Yes

## Data quality specifications

### Check conformance

Unknown

---

### Check completeness

Unknown

---

### Check stability

Unknown

---

### Check logical consistency

Unknown

## Data characterisation

### Data characterisation conducted

Unknown