RESEARCH WORKING GROUPS ON DRUG UTILIZATION ACROSS EUROPE

L Ibáñez, H Petri, P Solari, E Ballarin, M Sabaté, J Hasford, S Yeboa, K L Goh, J Fortuny, R Schlienger and JR Laporte

Work Package 2, Framework for Pharmacoepidemiological Studies - IMI-JU project PROTECT

Research on drug use in Europe

OBJECTIVES. To describe the European international working groups on drug utilization monitoring and research. This integrates into the aims of the WP2, Framework for Pharmacoepidemiological Studies, within the PROTECT, that attempts to build and update an inventory of data sources on drug consumption in the EU as a tool to evaluate risk-benefit assessment.

METHODS. Design: Descriptive study based on free online information. Setting: EU countries. Intervention: Electronic search using the key words drug utilization, pharmacotherapy, international cooperation, databases and Europe on PubMed and SITEST database. Groups studying a single condition were excluded. Period: 1990-2010.

RESULTS. 12 groups were selected. The study subjects of the groups are: general drug research (6), antimicrobial (3), cardiovascular disease (1), pediatrics (1), and mental health (1). Drug use information is available in 7 groups. The number of countries participating in the working groups varies from 5 to 35. The first working group started in 1993; 8 are still ongoing. We present a brief description of the groups (name, website, definition, objectives, related subprojects, availability of drug utilization data, number of participants and years of work).

Characteristics of the Working Groups

EuroDURG (European Drug Utilization Research Group)

- Objective: to provide an international forum for cooperation and communication to promote EU research
- Involvement: 18 participants in EU and 7 outside EU countries

ISPE’s SIG-DUR (International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology's Special Interest group on Drug Utilization Health Services Research)

- Objective: to create a forum for discussion and cooperation between drug utilization researchers
- Involvement: ISPE members from and non EU countries

EUROMEDSTAT (European Medicines Statistics)

- Objective: to facilitate and promote the conduction of studies for improving patient care and prevent/reduce the development of resistance
- Involvement: 31 European and non European countries

HAPPY AUDIT

- Objective: to facilitate and promote pharmacoepidemiological research initiatives promoting safer and more efficient drugs and drug use in a public health perspective.
- Involvement: Data on DU of the participant countries

JTUPP (The User Perspective Project)

- Objective: to analyse the patterns of drug use and to implement strategies for improving the prescribing and use of drugs
- Involvement: in 7 countries

CNC-Cross National Comparative Study

- Objective: to gather information on drug use (antibacterials, proton pump inhibitors, statins and hypoglycaemics) and monitoring systems in 24 countries

EUROMEDUM (Drug Utilization Research Quality Indicator Meeting)

- Objective: to analyse the patterns of drug use and to implement strategies for improving the prescribing and use of drugs

ESEMeD (European Study of the Epidemiology of Mental Disorders)

- Objective: to collect data on prevalence, risk factors, health-related quality of life and use of services associated with mental disorders
- Data of use of psychotropic drugs (antidepressants, anxiolytics, hypnotics, antipsychotics and mood stabilizers)

EPIREMED (European Policy Information Research for Mental Disorders)

- Objective: to promote the availability of safe and effective medicines for children by integrating existing expertise and good practices and stimulating further developments
- Data on 19 partner’s databases, including prescription data

EcoEP (Network of Centres for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance)

- Objective: to strengthen the post authorization monitoring of medicinal products by facilitating the conduction of studies focusing on safety and lack of efficacy
- Involvement: 21 European countries (2008)

Network of Pharmacovigilology and Pharmacovigilance led by the EMA

- Objective: to establish an inventory of national databases and sources and a survey of available data, to assess data reliability and comparability between countries
- Involvement: 19 countries

ESGAP (European Study Group On Antibiotic Policy)

- Objective: to formulate and promote strategies to improve antimicrobial prescribing practices and policies to improve patient care and prevent/reduce the development of resistance
- Involvement: 19 European and non European countries

EUROASPIRE (European Action on Secondary and Primary Prevention by Intervention to Reduce Events)

- Objective: to reduce the number of cardiovascular events in people with coronary heart disease
- Involvement: 22 European countries (EUROASPIRE III)

ESAC (European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption)

- Objective: to analyse modifiable CV risk factors, determine if risk factors are recorded in medical records and whether relatives have been screened and describe management after hospitalization
- Involvement: 32 Countries (all members of ESCMID were invited)

Pipers Group

- Objective: to debate ways of maintaining the ideas underlying socially-funded and equal health services
- Various publications, no consumption data
- Participants from 8 European countries (2008)

AR PAC (Antibiotic Resistance Prevention and Control Project)

- Objective: to develop strategies for control and prevention of antibiotic resistance in European hospitals
- Involvement: 32 Countries (all members of ESCMID were invited)

TEDDY (Task forces in Europe for Drug Development for the Young)

- Objective: to foster the safe use of medicines in children
- Involvement: 6 countries

Conclusions

Data on the patterns of drug use are a basic tool for benefit-risk assessment. Working groups with a variety of objectives were identified. Knowledge of the groups is essential to be aware of the available data and to test methodological standards.