

## Newsletter November 2012

The PHARMO Institute is an independent scientific research organisation dedicated to the study of epidemiology, drug utilisation, drug safety, health outcomes, and utilisation of healthcare resources.

We invite you to read our newsletter.

### PHARMO News

#### **Cholesterol level goal attainment rates study published in Pharmacotherapy**

A PHARMO study entitled "*Cholesterol level goal attainment with statins: clinical management guideline recommendations versus management in actual clinical practice*" was recently published in *Pharmacotherapy*. Using the PHARMO database network, cholesterol level goal attainment rates according to ESC guidelines were compared between patients receiving simvastatin 40 mg/day or simvastatin 20 mg/day and other statins at various dose levels. Simvastatin was chosen as the reference drug because policy makers in the Netherlands have promoted the use of generically available statins through incentives to reduce costs.

To read more, please click [here](#).

#### **Studies demonstrate new research possibilities in the field of oncology**

One of the partnership databases of the PHARMO database network is the nationwide network and registry of histo- and cytopathology in the Netherlands: PALGA ([www.palga.nl](http://www.palga.nl)). The linkage of PALGA to the PHARMO database network creates a valuable resource for pharmacoepidemiological studies in the area of e.g. oncology. A recent study published in *Sarcoma* entitled: "*Occurrence of co-morbidities before and after soft tissue sarcoma diagnosis*" demonstrates the new research possibilities that became available by linkage of both data sources.

To read more, please click [here](#).

The linkage of the Eindhoven Cancer Registry (IKZ; [www.ikz.nl](http://www.ikz.nl)) to the PHARMO database network creates a world-wide unique resource for pharmacoepidemiological studies in the area of oncology. A recent study (to be published in *The Breast Journal* in July 2013) entitled: "*Major changes in chemotherapy regimens administered to breast cancer patients during 2000-2008 in the Netherlands*" demonstrates the new research possibilities that become available using both data sources.

To read more, please click [here](#).

#### **PHARMO database and European databases in Pharmacoepidemiology, 5th ed.**

This year, the fifth edition of *Pharmacoepidemiology*, edited by Brian Strom, Stephen Kimmel and Sean Hennessy, is published. Written by world renowned experts in the field and incorporating perspectives from academia, industry and regulatory agencies, this book provides detailed insights into all aspects of pharmacoepidemiology. Research designs and sources of data available for pharmacoepidemiologic research are described. Furthermore, descriptions of various automated data systems are included, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Chapter 18 is about pharmacy-based medical record linkage systems, which have been established in the Nordic European countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Greenland and Iceland), Scotland and the Netherlands. Ron Herings and Lars Pedersen discuss the Dutch PHARMO database network, the Danish OPED (Odense University Pharmacoepidemiologic Database) and the Danish AUHD (Aarhus University Prescription Database). The different exposure and outcome databases available in the Danish network and PHARMO are described, as well as the methods used to link databases. The research possibilities within the PHARMO database network, OPED and AUHD are illustrated on the basis of a great variety of studies in different disease areas.

Click [here](#) for the publisher's website.

## Recent publications

### Diabetes:

- Prescribing of rosiglitazone and pioglitazone following safety signals: analysis of trends in dispensing patterns in the Netherlands from 1998 to 2008. *Drug Saf*, 2012; 35(6): 471-80.
- Recurrence of urinary tract infections in postmenopausal diabetic women using different antibiotics. *Journal of Diabetes Mellitus*, 2012; 2(2): 261-3.

### Cardiovascular diseases:

- Antihypertensive drugs: a perspective on pharmaceutical price erosion and its impact on cost-effectiveness. *Value Health*, 2012; 15(2): 381-8.
- Cholesterol level goal attainment with statins: clinical management guideline recommendations versus management in actual clinical practice. *Pharmacotherapy*, 2012; 32(7): 631-41.

### Oncology:

- Use of aspirin postdiagnosis improves survival for colon cancer patients. *Br J Cancer*, 2012; 106(9): 1564-70.
- Occurrence of comorbidities before and after soft tissue sarcoma diagnosis. *Sarcoma*, 2012, in press.

### Neurology and psychiatry:

- Risk of fractures in patients with multiple sclerosis: a population-based cohort study. *Neurology*, 2012; 78(24): 1967-73.
- Differences in lithium use patterns in the Netherlands: comparing middle-aged and older patients in a database study. *Am J Geriatr Pharmacother*, 2012; 10(3): 193-200.

### Respiratory diseases:

- Which long-acting bronchodilator is most cost-effective for the treatment of COPD? *Neth J Med*, 2012; 70(8): 357-64.

### Other:

- Using electronic health care records for drug safety signal detection: a comparative evaluation of statistical methods. *Med Care*, 2012; 50(10): 890-7.
- Harmonization process for the identification of medical events in eight European healthcare databases: the experience from the EU-ADR project. *J Am Med Inform Assoc*, 2012, in press.
- COX-2-selective NSAIDs and risk of hip or knee replacements: a population-based case-control study. *Calcif Tissue Int*, 2012; 91(6): 387-94.

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**More information? Please contact PHARMO at [pharmo@pharmo.nl](mailto:pharmo@pharmo.nl)**

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