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Aim: To develop a Decision Aid for deprescribing or continuing ChEIs. This is designed to complement an evidence based deprescribing guideline for ChEIs and memantine which includes an algorithm to help clinicians deprescribe these medications

Should I continue or stop my dementia medicine?

This information sheet helps people living with dementia have a conversation with their doctor. Do not change your medicine or pharmacist.

1. Why is this choice important?

Donepezil (Aricept®), rivastigmine (Exelon®), and galantamine (Razadyne®) are used to treat the symptoms of dementia. These medicines are called cholinesterase inhibitors. Some people take these medicines for a long time. In some situations, it may be a good idea to stop or reduce the dose of these medicines.

- It has not been helpful since it was started or is no longer helpful.
- The condition has progressed to later stages of dementia (e.g. receiving palliative care).
- The side effects of the medicine outweigh the benefits.

2. What are the options?

There are two options for stopping the dementia medicine:

- The medicine can be stopped completely.
- The dose can be gradually reduced before stopping. This may help with side effects during the process.

3. What else should I know?

- There is not one "right" decision. The right decision is the one that is best for you.
- Stopping the medicine may help with side effects.
- Stopping the medicine may help with the condition.
- The medicine can be started again if needed.

Design and methods:
Development in older defining

The protocol and changes were made for further testing. One on one interviews were conducted with General Practitioners and consumers one person living with dementia and carers. The research team synthesised the findings to complete rounds of modification. Some changes to improve the content, format and structure of the decision aid were made.

Evaluating the impact of new prescribing restrictions for proton pump inhibitors in Australia: an interrupted time series analysis



Are we using Australian routinely collected data to its full potential? An analysis of published research on medicine use and health related outcomes

mini*

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Background and aims

- “ Routinely collected data on prescribed medicines is used increasingly to evaluate real-world medicines effectiveness and safety
- “ OECD and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) dispensing data can be leveraged for post-market surveillance of medicines
- “ Here, we catalogue published literature using PBS dispensing claims to assess medicine use and health related outcomes

Methods

- “ Peer-reviewed studies published between 1987 and 2020
- “ Independent reviewers screened abstracts and full-text manuscripts and extracted data in duplicate
- “ We characterised publications according to:

Study population **Medicine group**

Results

- “ **107** studies published; **48** between 2016 and 2020
- “ **28** used aggregated data (ecological designs), **12** used medicines dispensed as a proxy of health-related outcomes and **67** linked PBS data to other health datasets

Aggregate data	Individual-level data
(N = 28)	(N = 79)
n (%)	n (%)

Study Population: Age profile

No age restrictions

Results

Medicine groups evaluated:

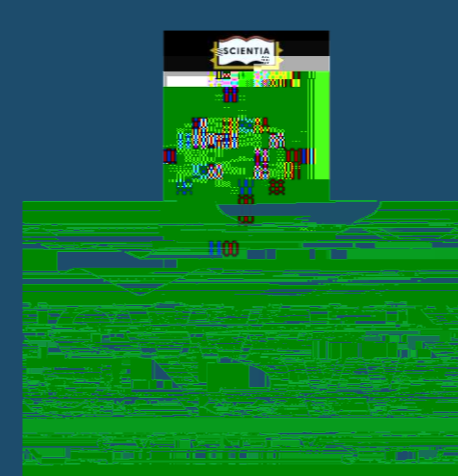
- “ 45% nervous system (e.g. opioids, psychotropics)
- “ 18% cardiovascular system (e.g. statins, antihypertensives, antithrombotics)
- “ 16% alimentary tract and metabolism (e.g. anti-diabetics, PPIs)

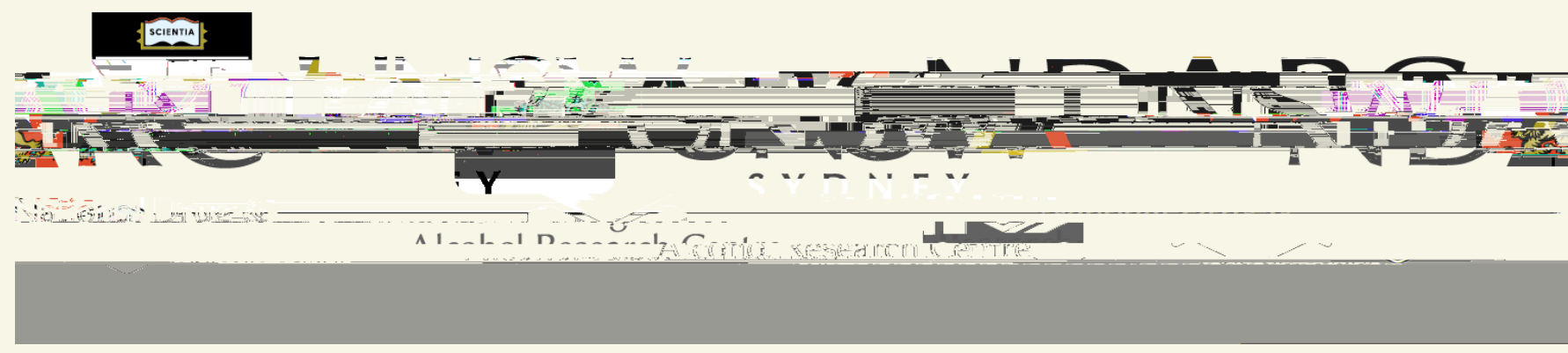
Conclusions

- “ Studies using PBS data to assess medicine-related outcomes is growing albeit slowly and likely reflects the challenges of developing fit-for purpose collections to explore these issues

Impact

- “ There are significant gaps in our understanding of medicine related outcomes in Australia
- “ Developing a linked dataset that is reflective of the Australian population will help address significant gaps in our understanding of the outcomes of medicine use in populations underrepresented in clinical trials





POPPY II Cohort Profile – a population-based linked cohort examining the patterns and outcomes of prescription opioid use in NSW, Australia, 2003-2018

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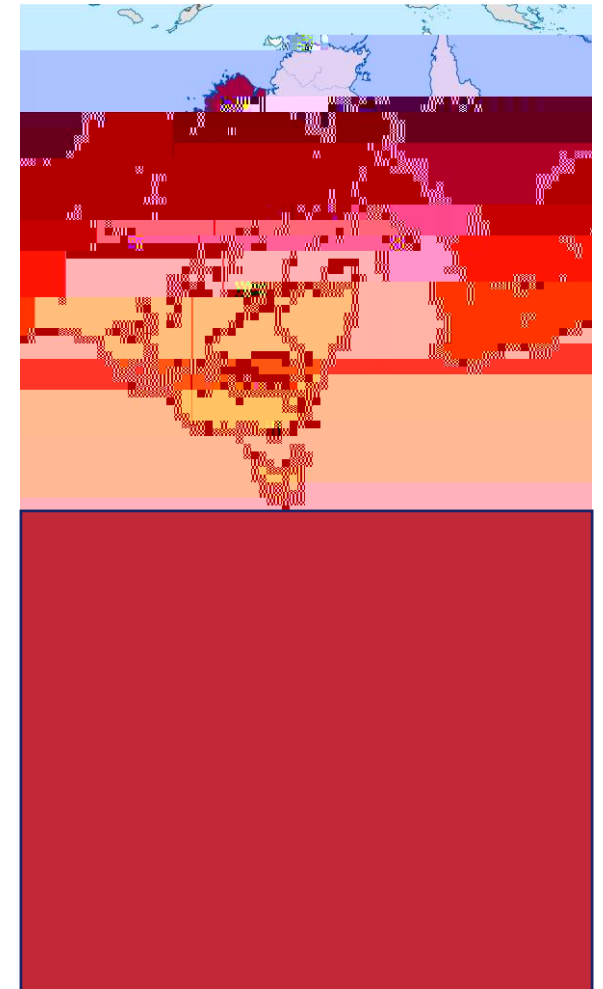
Background

- There is significant concern about the increased use of prescription opioids over recent years in several countries including the US, Canada, the UK and Australia.¹
- In Australia, opioid dispensing increased almost four-fold between 1990 and 2014.²
- There are no population-based Australian studies examining the long-term patterns and outcomes of people prescribed opioids.

References

1. Berterame S et al. Use of and barriers to access to opioid





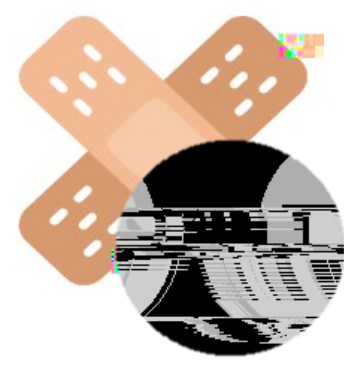
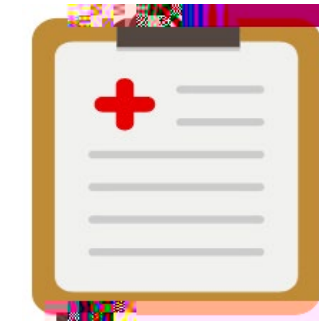
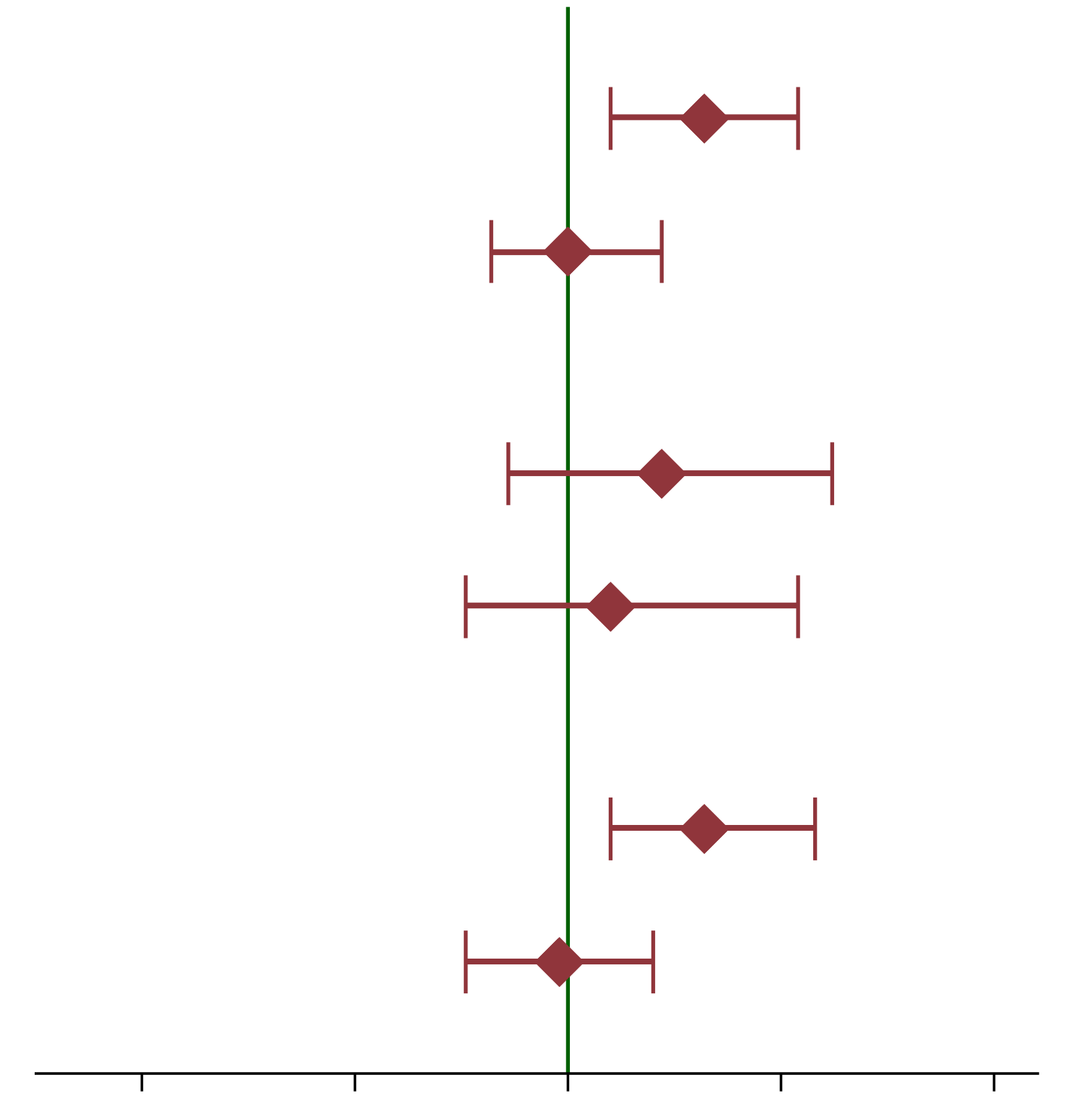
Consumer and clinician questions about quality use of medicines in people living with dementia: what are the priorities for future research?

Research Team: Emily Reeve^{1,2}, Tuan Anh Nguyen¹, Lisa Kalisch Ellett¹, Julia Gilmartin-Thomas³, Edwin Tan⁴, Lynn Chenoweth⁵, Mouna Sawan⁴, Lyntara S. Quirke (consumer representative), Janet Suggett⁶, Sarah N. Hilmer^{7,8}

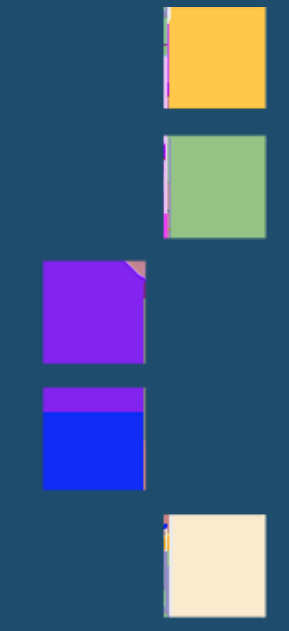
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Since the emergence of COVID-19, there have been increasing concerns about delays and/or discontinuations in cancer care. In Australia in 2020, there were relatively low COVID-19 infection rates, with the first wave of infections occurring in March 2020 and a second wave in July 2020. It is unclear to what extent systemic cancer therapy was impacted by COVID-19 in the context of low rates of COVID-19 transmission in 2020.

- March to December 2020: no decrease in antineoplastic dispensing
- March 2020: temporary increase in dispensing (39/100,000 population) and initiation of all antineoplastic medicines (3/100,000 population)
- April 2020: temporary increase in discontinuation of antineoplastic medicines (35/1,000 people treated)

COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations and restrictions in Australia in 2020

- April 2020: temporary decrease in chemotherapy initiation (2/100,000 population) and temporary increase in chemotherapy discontinuation (52/1,000 treated)

Initiations defined as a dispensing of a cancer medicine where no cancer medicine was dispensed in the preceding 90 days. Temporary increase in March 2020 (5/100,000 population) and decrease in April 2020 onwards (4/100,000 population), likely due to stockpiling

Discontinuations defined as a gap of 90 days between cancer medicines dispensings or following the last observed dispensing, reported per 1,000 people. We modelled temporary changes in March, April and July 2020 and level shifts using (ARIMA) models to quantify changes in these utilisation measures.

Black line = March 2020, Grey line = July 2020



Background

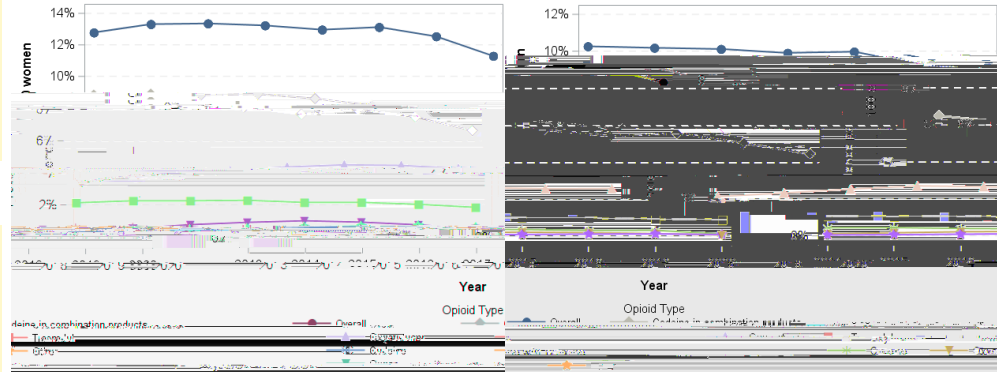
‡ Prescription opioid use in pregnancy has been linked to congenital malformations in infants and adverse perinatal outcomes.¹

‡ The limited and conflicting evidence regarding the safety of opioids in pregnancy underscores the importance of the quality use of opioid medicines in women who might become pregnant.

‡ As around half of all pregnancies are unplanned², prescription opioid use among women of reproductive age may result in exposure in unplanned pregnancies.

‡ Thus, an understanding of prescription opioid use among women of reproductive age is crucial.

1. To examine trends in the prevalence and incidence of prescription opioid use in Australian women aged 15 to 44 years.



Changing general practitioner when entering residential aged care: impact on psychotropic medicine use and polypharmacy in 2,250 Australians with dementia

mini*
1st Annual
Research
Symposium and
Policy Forum

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Outcomes—six months after entry to RAC

1. Number of unique medicines dispensed (based on 7 digit ATC code)
2. Proportion with polypharmacy (>=5 medicines) and hyper-polypharmacy (>=10 medicines)
3. Proportion with an antipsychotic/ benzodiazepine/ antidepressant dispensing

Statistical Analysis

We calculated Inverse Probability of Treatment (IPT) weights to balance group characteristics using a range of covariates from the 45 and Up Baseline Survey, and health and social care use based on administrative datasets. The main analyses used weighted regression Logistic for binary outcomes and Poisson for count data to assess relative differences between groups. These additionally controlled for prior medicine use in the six month period before entry to RAC and prior hospitalisation (using the “survey” package in R).

