

Information about older people needed for rational drug prescription



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Conclusions

1. Information considered necessary in this study is currently not included in the ICH E7 guideline:

- Effects on the locomotor system,
- Drug-disease interactions,
- Dosing instructions.

2. Clinicians' and non-clinicians' opinions differed significantly in 15% of the items.

Therefore, all stakeholders should collaborate to improve the availability of information for the rational prescribing of medicines to older individuals.

Introduction

The ICH E7 guideline intends to improve the knowledge about medicines in geriatric patients. As a legislative document, it might not reflect the needs of healthcare professionals.

Aim

To investigate what information healthcare professionals, regulators and drug developers actually consider necessary.

Methods

Subjects:

43 professionals from 17 European countries with an interest in medication for older individuals.

Clinical respondents:

23 geriatricians, an internist, a nursing home physician, a pharmacist

Non-clinical respondents:

10 regulators, 3 professionals working in pharma industry, 2 ethicists, 2 clinical researchers.

Questionnaires:

1st. 29-items, divided in 5 categories (See figure).

2nd- 5 new items derived from

comments in the 1st questionnaire, - 11 control items from the 1st questionnaire (response consistency).

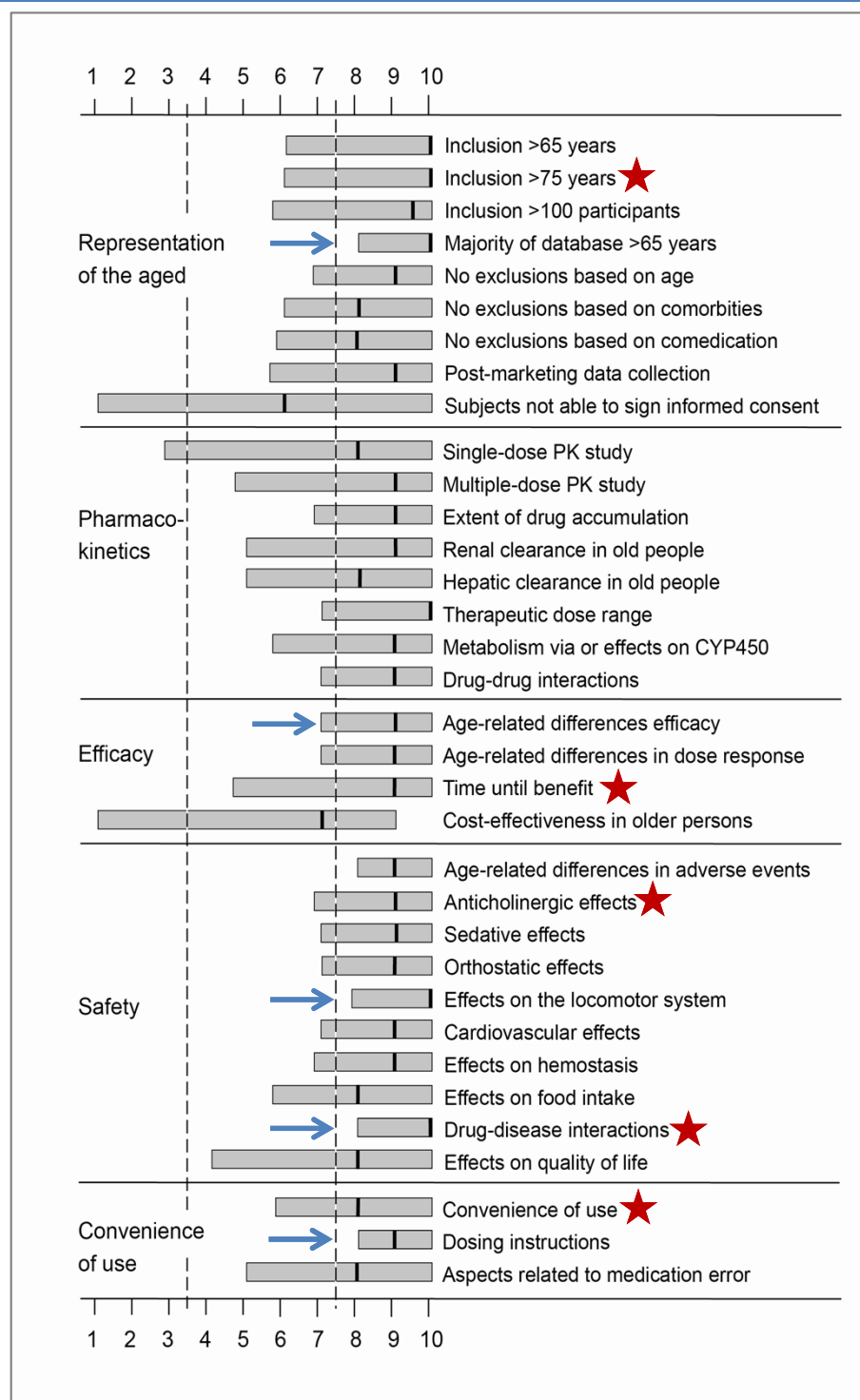


Figure. Median scores (10th and 90th percentiles) of the 34 items in both questionnaires

Results

- 37 (86%) responders to 1st questionnaire

- 23 clinicians
- 14 non-clinical professionals

- 31 (84%) responders to 2nd questionnaire

- 21 clinicians
- 10 nonclinical professionals

Necessary information according to most respondents: See figure →

Information considered significantly (p <.05) more important by clinicians than by non-clinical respondents: See figure ★

Methods ctd.

Data analysis:

- Median score, 10th and 90th percentiles
- Differences between clinical and non-clinical respondents
- Response consistency.

Three categories, based on median group score (See figure):

- 1) 'necessary information' (median 7.5 – 10);
- 2) 'uncertain', (median 3.5 – 7.5);
- 3) 'unnecessary information' (median 1 – 3.5).

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Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

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