

# 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).

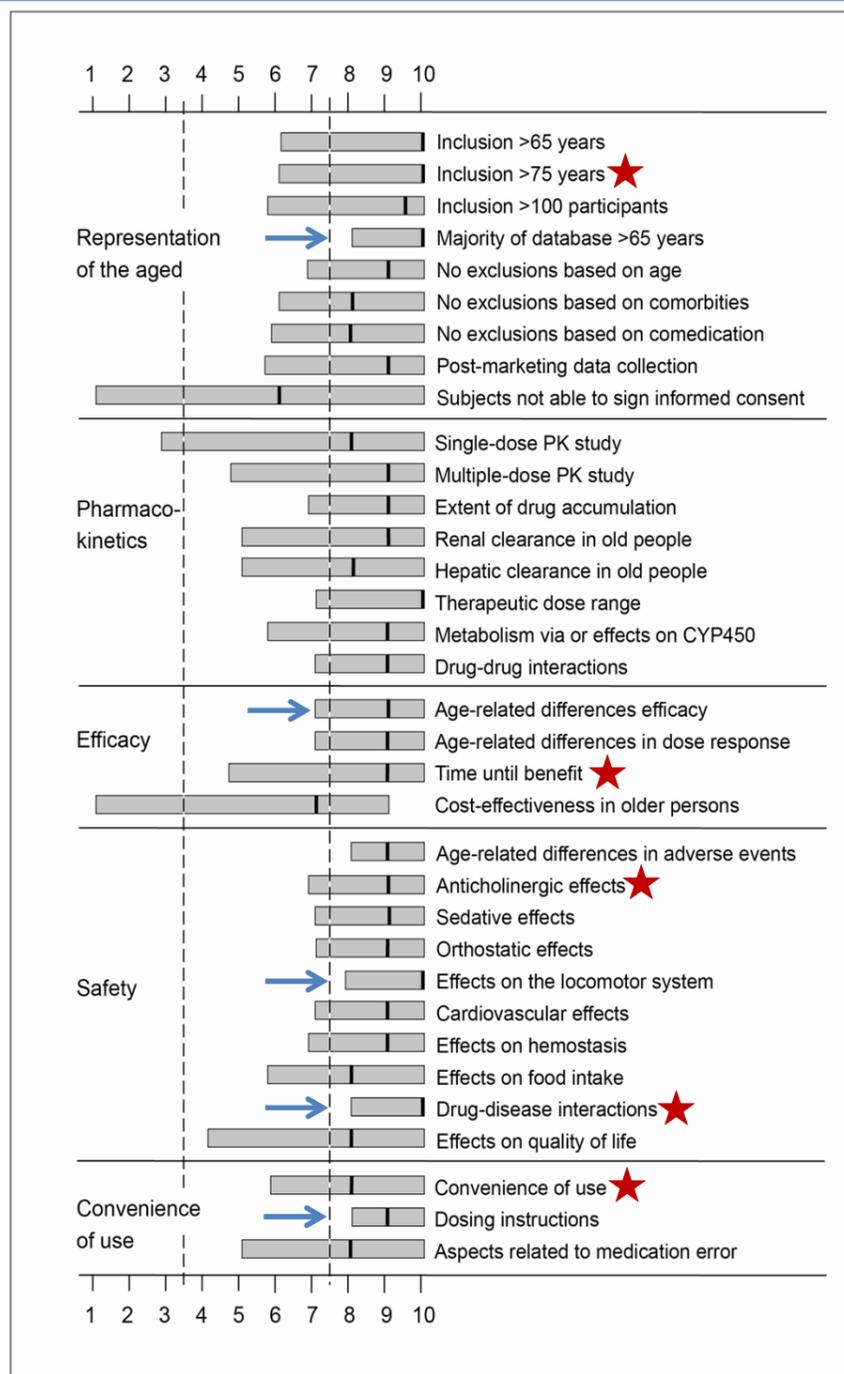


Figure. Median scores (10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles) of the 34 items in both questionnaires

## Results

- 37 (86%) responders to 1<sup>st</sup> questionnaire

- 23 clinicians
- 14 non-clinical professionals

- 31 (84%) responders to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> 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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