Comparison of the Medication Possession Ratio Alone and in Combination With Breakthrough Events for Classifying Patients With Acid-Related Diseases

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OBJECTIVES

- To determine whether the medication possession ratios (MPRs) alone or in combination with breakthrough events (BTEs) were likely to show differentiation by patient groups because:
  - Exposing differences in MPRs among users of proton pump inhibitor (PPI) therapy
  - Identifying the existence of certain BTEs (diagnoses and procedures) in combination with MPRs are better predictors of disease severity than medication usage alone (MPR)

INTRODUCTION

The prevalence of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), defined as at least weekly heartburn, has been estimated at 20 million in the United States. The number of patients who had a medical visit related to GERD in a given year has been found to be far lower.

Acid-Related Diseases (ARDs) include GERD and related conditions, such as esophagitis and hiatal hernia (Table 1).

RESULTS

- The study identified a population of 79,454 persons with 700,846 claims for PPI prescriptions during the 2-year time frame.
- Significant pairwise comparisons identified for the 2 methods follow:
  - The MPR alone method identified 523 (68.8%) differences.
  - The MPR combination method identified 464 (61.1%) comparisons.

CONCLUSIONS

- The MPR alone method outperforms the MPR in combination with the other 2 methods.

REFERENCES

2. IMS National Disease and Therapeutic Index (N DTI) Audit, March 2005.

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