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PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES ON PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS USE IN SERBIA

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High rate of prescribing of psychiatric drugs causes medical, social and economic consequences.

This research was performed by collecting and analysing all the papers published on this matter in Serbia.

In former Yugoslavia (of which Serbia was a constitutive republic), during the eighties, a study of benzodiazepines use showed a trend of the increase of their use (17,9 defined daily doses - DDDs in 1983 - 22,3 DDDs in 1988) (Macolic V et al. Benzodiazepines utilization in Yugoslavia 1983-1988. *Pharmaca* 1990;217-97). Similar trends continued in the nineties. In 1994 diazepam was at the first position on the list of most prescribed drugs (Miljković M. et al. Analysis of Drug Utilization in Serbia During the Years 1996 and 1997.

Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf 2000;9:59-64.). The analysis of the trend of prescribing of psychiatric drugs in Serbia (2000-2004) shows the increase, with the emphasis on the use of benzodiazepines and antidepressants (Divac N. et al. Trends in consumption of psychiatric drugs in Serbia and Montenegro 2000-2004. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf.* 2006;15:835-8.).

There are also positive, qualitative changes in the prescribing practice: the increase of the use of SSRI antidepressants and atypical antipsychotics. Specific prescribing habits were noticed: the common practice of polypharmacy in the treatment of psychoses (Divac N. et al. Antipsychotic polypharmacy at the University Psychiatric Hospital in Serbia.

Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf. 2007;16:1250-1.).

Pharmacoepidemiologic methods have found its place in Serbian science. The methodology used in these studies is mostly up-to-date. Main limitation of these studies is the lack of data-bases.