Volume 15, Number S-3 August, 2004

NSV Public NSW HE Working Health Bulletin Supplement

1634 7674 State Health Publication PH 040164

Trends in the prescribing of stimulant medication for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in adults in NSW

NSW DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Copyright © NSW Department of Health, August 2004

This work is copyright. It may be reproduced in whole or in part, subject to the inclusion of an acknowledgement of the source and no commercial usage or sale.

State Health Publication No: PH040164

ISSN 1034 7674

Suggested citation

Salmelainen P. Trends in the prescribing of stimulant medication for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in adults in NSW. N S W Public Health Bull 2004; 15(S-3).

produced by:

Pharmaceutical Services Branch Population Health Division NSW Department of Health PO Box 103 Gladesville NSW 1675 Australia

Tel: 61 2 9879 3214 Fax: 61 2 9859 5165

further copies of this publication can be obtained by contacting:

Better Health Centre Publication Warehouse Locked Bag 5003 Gladesville NSW 2111 Australia

Tel: 61 2 9816 0452 Fax: 61 2 9816 0492

or from the Population Health Division website at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/phb/phb.html



Table of Contents

EXE	CUTIVE S	SUMMAR	Υ	3	
1.	INTROD	UCTION	l	5	
2.	BACKGROUND				
	2.1	Adult AD	HD and the controversy	7	
	2.2	Diagnosis	and assessment	8	
	2.3	Prevalenc	e of ADHD among adults	9	
	2.4	Treatmen	t of adult ADHD	. 10	
		2.4.1	Stimulants	. 10	
		2.4.2	Antidepressants	. 12	
		2.4.3	Other medications	. 12	
		2.4.4	Psychosocial interventions	. 13	
		2.4.5	Alternative treatments	. 13	
	2.5	Restrictio	ns on prescribing in NSW	. 13	
	2.6		is study		
3.	METHO	DS		16	
	3.1		the number of adults treated with stimulant medication		
	2.2		rst time	. 16	
	3.2		ristics of adults who commenced treatment for the first vember to December 2002)	. 16	
	3.3	Trends in	the rate of adults treated with stimulant medication	. 17	
	3.4	Characte	ristics of adults treated with stimulant medication	. 17	
	3.5	Attrition	from stimulant treatment	. 18	
	3.6	Caveats		. 18	
4.	RESULT	s		20	
	4.1	Trends in the number of adults treated with stimulant medication			
		for the fir	rst time	.20	
		4.1.1	Sex	. 20	
		Figure I	Number of adults with ADHD commenced on stimulant medication for the first time by year of commencement		
			and sex, 1990 to 2002	20	
		4.1.2	Age at commencement	.21	
		Figure 2	Average age of adults with ADHD commenced on stimulant medication for the first time by year of		
			commencement, 1990 to 2002	. 2 I	
		Figure 3	Relative frequency distribution of age for adults with ADHD commenced on stimulant medication for the first time,		
			1992 and 2002		
	4.1.3	_		.21	
		Figure 4	Number of adults with ADHD commenced on stimulant medication for the first time by year of commencement		
			and drug, 1990 to 2002	. 22	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 55							
APPENDIX							
REFERENCES							
DISCUSSION							
	ū	ADHD for the first time in 1998 who discontinued after the initial treatment episode by age and sex	3.2				
		Per cent of adults treated with stimulant medication for	- •				
	4.5	Attrition from stimulant treatment					
		ADHD as at 30 June 2003 by duration of continuous treatment and age	37				
	Figure 12	Per cent of adults treated with stimulant medication for					
	4.4.5	Duration of stimulant treatment	37				
		stimulants as a child, by age and sex	36				
	rigule II	ADHD as at 30 June 2003 who were first treated with					
	4.4.4	Age status at initiation of treatment Per cent of adults treated with stimulant medication for	36				
	4.4.4	by area health service and sex					
	_	with stimulant medication for ADHD as at 30 June 2003	2 -				
	Figure 10	Rate per 10,000 resident population of adults treated					
	4.4.3	Area health service of residence and sex					
	Figure 9	ADHD as at 30 June 2003 by age and drug	34				
	4.4.2 Figure 9	Age and drug Per cent of adults treated with stimulant medication for	54				
	4.4.2	30 June 2003 by age and sex					
	-	treated with stimulant medication for ADHD as at					
	Figure 8	Rate per 10,000 NSW resident population of adults					
	Table 2	medication for ADHD as at 30 June 2003 by age and sex	32				
	4.4.1 Table 2	Age and Sex Number and per cent of adults treated with stimulant	32				
4.4		istics of adults treated with stimulant medication					
		as at 30 June, 1993 to 2003					
	o ·	with stimulant medication for ADHD by year and drug,					
	Figure 7	Rate per 10,000 NSW resident population of adults treated	J 1				
	4.3.3	Drug					
		treated with stimulant medication for ADHD by year and age, as at 30 June, 1993 to 2003	30				
	Figure 6	Rate per 10,000 NSW resident population of adults					
	4.3.2	Age					
		and sex, as at 30 June, 1993 to 2003	29				
	Figure 5	Rate per 10,000 NSW resident population of adults treated with stimulant medication for ADHD by year					
	4.3.1	Sex	29				
4.3		the rate of adults treated with stimulant medication					
		31 December 2002	23				
	iable I	for ADHD for the first time, I November to					
	Table I	(November to December 2002)	23				
4.2		(Navious Augusts Who commenced treatment for the	2.2				

5.

6.

7.

8.