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Article:

Kingsbury, SR, Gross, HJ, Isherwood, G et al. (1 more author) (2014) Osteoarthritis in Europe: impact on health status, work productivity and use of pharmacotherapies in five European countries. *Rheumatology*, 53 (5). 937 - 947. ISSN 1462-0324

<https://doi.org/10.1093/rheumatology/ket463>

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Supplementary Table S1: Relationship between pain severity and medication use

| | France* | Germany* | UK* | Italy* | Spain* | 5EU* |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Mild pain | n=282 | n=282 | n=678 | n=155 | n=139 | n=1536 |
| Use prescription medication | 97 (34.4) | 56 (19.9) | 190 (28.0) | 58 (37.4) | 54 (38.8) | 455 (29.6) |
| Use OTC medication | 78 (27.7) | 66 (23.4) | 214 (31.6) | 46 (29.7) | 20 (14.4) | 424 (27.6) |
| Use prescription paracetamol | 3 (1.1) | 0 (0.0) | 7 (1.0) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (0.7) | 11 (0.7) |
| Use prescription NSAID | 61 (21.6) | 48 (17.0) | 142 (20.9) | 57 (36.8) | 38 (27.3) | 346 (22.5) |
| Use prescription COX-2 | 8 (2.8) | 2 (0.7) | 3 (0.4) | 6 (3.9) | 3 (2.2) | 22 (1.4) |
| Use prescription opioid | 44 (15.6) | 3 (1.1) | 38 (5.6) | 1 (0.6) | 6 (4.3) | 92 (6.0) |
| Use prescription glucosamine / chondroitin | 5 (1.8) | 1 (0.4) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 12 (8.6) | 18 (1.2) |
| Moderate pain | n=544 | n=242 | n=737 | n=109 | n=148 | n=1780 |
| Use prescription medication | 289 (53.1) | 106 (43.8) | 429 (58.2) | 52 (47.7) | 92 (62.2) | 968 (54.4) |
| Use OTC medication | 162 (29.8) | 66 (27.3) | 214 (29.0) | 34 (31.2) | 20 (13.5) | 496 (27.9) |
| Use prescription paracetamol | 8 (1.5) | 0 (0.0) | 29 (3.9) | 1 (0.9) | 5 (3.4) | 43 (2.4) |
| Use prescription NSAID | 174 (32.0) | 103 (42.6) | 279 (37.9) | 56 (51.4) | 67 (45.3) | 679 (38.1) |
| Use prescription COX-2 | 28 (5.1) | 9 (3.7) | 19 (2.6) | 10 (9.2) | 8 (5.4) | 74 (4.2) |
| Use prescription opioid | 158 (29.0) | 13 (5.4) | 170 (23.1) | 1 (0.9) | 11 (7.4) | 353 (19.8) |
| Use prescription glucosamine/chondroitin | 32 (5.9) | 0 (0.0) | 3 (0.4) | 1 (0.9) | 11 (7.4) | 47 (2.6) |
| Severe pain | n=135 | n=46 | n=220 | n=4 | n=29 | n=434 |
| Use prescription medication | 102 (75.6) | 26 (56.5) | 183 (83.2) | 4 (100.0) | 22 (75.9) | 337 (77.6) |
| Use OTC medication | 39 (28.9) | 7 (15.2) | 23 (10.5) | 0 (0) | 6 (20.7) | 75 (17.3) |
| Use prescription paracetamol | 6 (4.4) | 0 (0.0) | 10 (4.5) | 0 (0) | 4 (13.8) | 20 (4.6) |
| Use prescription NSAID | 48 (35.6) | 25 (54.3) | 112 (50.9) | 3 (75.0) | 14 (48.3) | 202 (46.5) |
| Use prescription COX-2 | 8 (5.9) | 1 (2.2) | 11 (5.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 20 (4.6) |
| Use prescription opioid | 64 (47.4) | 4 (8.7) | 108 (49.1) | 0 (0.0) | 5 (17.2) | 181 (41.7) |
| Use prescription glucosamine/chondroitin | 6 (4.4) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (3.4) | 7 (1.6) |

*n (%) unless indicated. NSAID – non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; OTC – over the counter.

Supplementary Table S2: Satisfaction with medication

| Sample size (no. using prescription medication) | France* n=488 | Germany* n=188 | UK* n=802 | Italy* n=114 | Spain* n=168 | 5EU* n=1760 |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Paracetamol | 17 (3.5) | 0 (0.0) | 46 (5.7) | 1 (0.9) | 10 (6.0) | 74 (4.2) |
| Very/extremely satisfied | 6 (35.3) | 0 (0.0) | 21 (45.7) | 0 (0.0) | 3 (30.0) | 30 (40.5) |
| Mean satisfaction ± SD | 4.76 ± 1.44 | - | 5.24 ± 1.30 | 5.00 ± 0.00 | 4.70 ± 1.57 | 5.05 ± 1.36 |
| NSAID | 227 (46.5) | 154 (81.9) | 462 (57.6) | 92 (80.7) | 101 (60.1) | 1036 (58.9) |
| Very/extremely satisfied | 85 (37.4) | 70 (45.5) | 174 (37.7) | 40 (43.5) | 36 (35.6) | 405 (39.1) |
| Mean satisfaction ± SD | 4.83 ± 1.48 | 5.13 ± 1.26 | 5.07 ± 1.32 | 4.98 ± 1.33 | 4.99 ± 1.22 | 5.01 ± 1.34 |
| FDC NSAID/GPA | 12 (2.5) | 10 (5.3) | 38 (4.7) | 8 (7.0) | 7 (4.2) | 75 (4.3) |
| Very/extremely satisfied | 4 (33.3) | 3 (30.0) | 16 (42.1) | 3 (37.5) | 2 (28.6) | 28 (37.3) |
| Mean satisfaction ± SD | 4.42 ± 1.51 | 4.70 ± 1.42 | 5.11 ± 1.48 | 4.13 ± 1.96 | 4.43 ± 1.51 | 4.77 ± 1.54 |
| COX-2 Inhibitor | 44 (9.0) | 12 (6.4) | 33 (4.1) | 16 (14.0) | 11 (6.5) | 116 (6.6) |
| Very/extremely satisfied | 20 (45.5) | 8 (66.7) | 8 (24.2) | 7 (43.8) | 3 (27.3) | 46 (39.7) |
| Mean satisfaction ± SD | 4.61 ± 1.85 | 5.83 ± 1.11 | 4.70 ± 1.26 | 5.00 ± 1.55 | 4.91 ± 1.04 | 4.84 ± 1.54 |
| Opioid | 266 (54.5) | 20 (10.6) | 316 (39.4) | 2 (1.8) | 22 (13.1) | 626 (35.6) |
| Very/extremely satisfied | 79 (29.7) | 10 (50.0) | 123 (38.9) | 0 (0.0) | 7 (31.8) | 219 (35.0) |
| Mean satisfaction ± SD | 4.58 ± 1.54 | 4.95 ± 1.76 | 5.04 ± 1.36 | 5.00 ± 0.00 | 4.77 ± 1.34 | 4.83 ± 1.46 |
| Glucosamine/chondroitin Rx | 43 (8.8) | 1 (0.5) | 3 (0.4) | 1 (0.9) | 24 (14.3) | 72 (4.1) |
| Very/extremely satisfied | 15 (34.9) | 0 (0.0) | 2 (66.7) | 0 (0.0) | 8 (33.3) | 25 (34.7) |
| Mean satisfaction ± SD | 5.09 ± 1.00 | 5.00 ± 0.00 | 6.00 ± 1.00 | 1.00 ± 0.00 | 4.79 ± 1.53 | 4.97 ± 1.29 |

*n (%) unless indicated. FDC NSAID/GPA – fixed-dose combination non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug and gastroprotective agent; NSAID – non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

Supplementary Table S3: Cost-saving strategies

| | France* n=961 | Germany* n=570 | UK* n=1635 | Italy* n=268 | Spain* n=316 | 5EU* n=3,750 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Used any cost saving strategy in past 6 months (net) | 484 (50.4) | 207 (36.3) | 138 (8.4) | 158 (59.0) | 85 (26.9) | 1072 (28.6) |
| Cost Savings Strategies | | | | | | |
| Taking less medication than my doctor prescribed | 103 (10.7) | 17 (3.0) | 41 (2.5) | 11 (4.1) | 15 (4.7) | 187 (5.0) |
| Cutting tablets in half | 28 (2.9) | 30 (5.3) | 11 (0.7) | 9 (3.4) | 7 (2.2) | 85 (2.3) |
| Buying fewer tablets | 37 (3.9) | 14 (2.5) | 19 (1.2) | 17 (6.3) | 5 (1.6) | 92 (2.5) |
| Asking doctor or pharmacist for generic alternatives | 354 (36.8) | 89 (15.6) | 0 (0.0) | 104 (38.8) | 54 (17.1) | 601 (28.4) |
| Asking for samples | 16 (1.7) | 21 (3.7) | 11 (0.7) | 24 (9.0) | 14 (4.4) | 86 (2.3) |
| Not filling a prescription because it was too expensive | 79 (8.2) | 22 (3.9) | 27 (1.7) | 12 (4.5) | 8 (2.5) | 148 (3.9) |
| Not filling a prescription and using an over-the-counter (OTC) as an alternative because it is less expensive | 22 (2.3) | 12 (2.1) | 43 (2.6) | 36 (13.4) | 5 (1.6) | 118 (3.1) |
| Buying prescription less often than directed | 88 (9.2) | 10 (1.8) | 25 (1.5) | 16 (6.0) | 13 (4.1) | 152 (4.1) |
| Buying prescriptions multiple months at a time through mail order | 9 (0.9) | 60 (10.5) | 10 (0.6) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 79 (2.5) |
| Using coupons for medications | 0 (0.0) | 11 (1.9) | 3 (0.2) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 14 (0.6) |
| Using discount card provided by a healthcare company | 6 (0.6) | 9 (1.6) | 23 (1.4) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 38 (1.2) |
| Ever had a prescription medication switched by a pharmacist | | | | | | |
| Yes, it was switched to a generic version of a prescribed drug | 614 (63.9) | 196 (34.4) | 191 (11.7) | 123 (45.9) | 53 (16.8) | 1177 (31.4) |
| Yes, it was switched to another brand in the same drug class | 110 (11.4) | 195 (34.2) | 116 (7.1) | 22 (8.2) | 14 (4.4) | 457 (12.2) |
| Yes, it was switched to a generic version of another brand in the same drug class | 287 (29.9) | 80 (14.0) | 50 (3.1) | 24 (9.0) | 15 (4.7) | 456 (12.2) |

*n (%) unless indicated.