

**Introduction:**

Inappropriate drug use in elderly is a significant problem and can lead to increased costs, side effects, and drug interactions. In this study, the status of prescribing inappropriate drugs for the elderly in the prescriptions of general practitioners in Ardabil city was investigated according to Beer's criteria.

**Materials and methods:**

The sample size included 1000 copies of prescriptions prescribed by general practitioners of Ardabil city in 1400. To prepare prescriptions, after obtaining a permission, 1000 prescriptions related to people over 65 years of age from the Tamin Ejtemaie and Salamat insurance organizations of Ardabil city were examined. The 2019 version of the Beer's criteria was used to determine the inappropriateness of drug prescribing and, if available, suitable alternatives were suggested to replace them.

**Results:**

In the examined prescriptions, the mean number of medicinal items in each prescription was  $3.62 \pm 1.3$  and the mean number of inappropriate drugs in each prescription was  $0.86 \pm 0.92$ . The prevalence of polypharmacy was observed in 32.7% of the studied prescriptions, and 56.6% of the prescriptions contained inappropriate drugs. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antihistamines and Benzodiazepines were the most inappropriate prescription drugs for the elderly with 39.67, 10.9 and 10.6% respectively according to Beer's criteria.

**Discussion and Conclusions:**

The results of the present study demonstrated that 56.6% of prescriptions prescribed by general practitioners in Ardabil city for the elderly contain inappropriate drugs. These conditions are not a favorable and scientific situation, and it is necessary to modify the educational methods of medical students and to hold appropriate geriatric medicine training and retraining courses for them and general, specialist and subspecialist physicians on a continuous basis.

**Key words:**

Elderly, General practitioners, Beers criteria, Ardabil