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Factors associated with potential drug-drug interactions in patients attended in primary health care: A focus on mental health

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In Brazil, there were no studies of potential drug-drug interactions in Primary Health Care considering the factors of Common Mental Disorders and psychotropic medication. The objectives of this study were: To identify the frequency of potential drug interactions in patients attended at Primary Health Care units in an urban centre in Brazil; To classify potential drug interactions in relation to the severity and quality of scientific evidence; To verify if there is correlation of the drug-drug interactions with demographic, pharmacotherapeutic variables, use of psychoactive drugs and Common Mental Disorders. In this cross-sectional study, it was interviewed 430 patients; and 190 had more than two mediction prescribed in five services of Primary Health Care at an urban center in Brazil. The prevalence of DDI was 58.4%, In the univariate analysis, the factors associated with drug-drug interactions were age (p=0.01), where 68.07% of respondents above 60 had drug-drug interactions in their prescriptions, and number of medications (p<0.01). Regarding the severity of drug-drug interactions, 28% of the patients had severe drug-drug interactions in their prescriptions. It is noteworthy that most of them involved psychotropic drugs (71.9%). In multivariate analysis only the variable number of types of drugs contributed significantly to the model (p<0.05). This study brings up important aspects to be considered in terms of patient safety in Primary Health Care settings, once those are the gateway to patients with psychological complaints.