Use of Evidence-Based Pharmacotherapy in Patients with a Diagnosis of Alcohol Use Disorder

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SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

BACKGROUND

• Alcohol is a widely utilized substance in the United States (U.S.) that may result in a substance use disorder.

OBJECTIVES

- Primary Objective: To describe current prescribing rates of evidence-based pharmacotherapy in patients with a documented diagnosis of AUD in a large federally qualified health center.
- Secondary Objective: Identify (if any) predictive factors for the receipt of EBM pharmacotherapy for the treatment of AUD.

METHODS

- A retrospective chart review of electronic health records at SIHF Healthcare of patients with Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD).
- EHR data was queried for all patients with a diagnosis of AUD over a 60-month lookback period.
- There were no inclusion or exclusion criteria based on gender, sex, race, or ethnicity. Patients were excluded if less than 18 or greater than 89 years of age.

RESULTS

Characteristic	Frequency, n (%)		
Age			
	18-30	323 (7.5)	
	31-40	811 (18.9)	
	41-50	983 (22.8)	
	51-60	1155 (26.8)	
	61-70	874 (20.3)	
	71-80	144 (3.3)	
	81-90	12 (0.3)	
Weight Category			
	Overweight	1230 (46.7)	
	Class 1 Obesity	760 (28.9)	
	Class 2 Obesity	365 (13.9)	
	Class 3 Obesity	278 (10.6)	
Smoking Status			
	Smoker	2603 (60.3)	
	Non-Smoker or previous smoker	1716 (39.7)	
Sex			
	F	1618 (37.5)	
	M	2701 (62.5)	
Race			
	Caucasian	2852 (66.0)	
	African American	1309 (30.3)	
	Native American	30 (0.7)	
	Asian	7 (0.2)	
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	7 (0.2)	
	Arab	1 (0)	
	Other	14 (0.3)	
	Patient Declined	99 (2.3)	

Table 2. Prescribing rates			
		Frequency, n (%)	
FDA Approved Therapy	History of FDA approved therapy	383 (8.9)	
	No history of FDA approved therapy	3936 (91.1)	
Any EBM EtOH Treatment	History of EBM Treatment	1221 (28.3)	
	No history of EBM Treatment	3098 (71.7)	

Table 3. Rates of pharmacotherapy utilization				
Medication	Frequency, n (%)			
None	3098 (71.7)			
Acamprosate	53 (1.2)			
Disulfiram	31 (0.7)			
Naltrexone PO	299 (6.9)			
Naltrexone ER	70 (1.6)			
Gabapentin	699 (16.2)			
Topiramate	69 (1.6)			
Total	4319 (100.0)			

DISCUSSION/LIMITATIONS

- Low rates of pharmacological treatment of AUD.
- Limitations: medications may have been indicated for co-occurring conditions, socioeconomic factors not examined, subjects may have been using non-pharmacological therapies, and retrospective analysis collection method.

CONCLUSION

- Rates of prescribing various guideline-driven pharmacotherapies for AUD at SIHF Healthcare over a 5-year span were suboptimal.
- Suggestions: an updated standardized AUD treatment plan for prescribers, reeducation for prescribers and the public, and research and development of medications that may be utilized for the treatment of AUD.