

# **Adverse Drug Reactions Induced related to Antihypertensive Drug Treatment: a retrospective study in Calabria**

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The use of cardiovascular drugs is related with the development of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in about 24% of patients. In this paper, we evaluated the ADRs in patients treated with antihypertensive drugs. The study was conducted in two times: in the first time we performed a retrospective study on clinical records of Clinical Divisions (i.e. Internal Medicine Operative Unit and Geriatric Operative Unit) from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. Moreover from January 1, 2013 to March 30, 2013 we performed a prospective study on outpatients attending the Emergency Department (ED) of Pugliese Ciaccio Hospital of Catanzaro by conducting patient interviews after their informed consent was obtained and recording. The association between drug and ADR was evaluated through the Naranjo's scale. We recorded 72 ADRs in Clinical Divisions and 6 in ED and these were more commons in women. Using the Naranjo score we showed a probable association in 92% of these reaction and a possible association in 8%. The most vulnerable age group involved in ADRs were elderly patients. In conclusion our results indicate that antihypertensive drugs may be able to induce the development of ADRs particularly in elderly women receiving a multiple drug treatment. Therefore, it is important to motivate healthcare providers to understand their role and responsibility in the detection, management, documentation, and reporting of ADRs, and all essential activities for optimizing patient safety.