RISK OF INJURIOUS ROAD TRAFFIC CRASH AFTER PRESCRIPTION OF ANTIDEPRESSANTS

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E Lagarde, R Queinec, P Philip, G Gadegbeku, B Delorme, N Moore, S Suissa, L-R Salmi, on behalf of the CESIR research group.

University of Bordeaux, ISPED, INSERM U897 Research Centre ‘Epidemiology and Biostatistics’, Bordeaux, France; INSERM, ISPED, Injury Prevention and Control Research Team, INSERM U897, Bordeaux, France; Pôle Entre-Deux-Mers, CH, Cadillac, France; USR CNRS SANPSY 3413, University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France; University of Lyon, Lyon, France; IFSTTAR, UMR T 9405, UMRESTTE, Bron, France; University of Lyon 1, UMRESTTE, Lyon, France; Service de l’Évaluation de la Surveillance du Risque et de l’Information sur le Médicament, AFSSAPS, Saint-Denis, France; INSERM U657, DCP0005, Pharmacology, University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France; Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Centre for Clinical Epidemiology, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; University Hospital Pellegrin, Bordeaux, France

Background Antidepressants are commonly used worldwide. Experimental studies have suggested that antidepressants may impair driving abilities.

Aims/Objectives/Purpose The study aims to estimate the risk of road traffic crash associated with prescription of antidepressants.

Methods Data from three French national databases were extracted and matched: the national health care insurance database, police reports, and the national police database of injurious crashes. A case-control analysis comparing 34,896 responsible versus 37,789 non-responsible drivers was conducted. Case-crossover analysis was performed to investigate the acute effect of medicine exposure.

Results/Outcomes 72,685 drivers identified by their national health-care number, involved in an injurious crash in France over the July 2005 to May 2008 period, were included. 2936 drivers (4.0%) were exposed to at least one antidepressant on the day of the crash. The results showed a significant association between the risk of being responsible for a crash and prescription of antidepressants (OR=1.34 (1.22 to 1.47)). The case-crossover analysis showed no association with treatment prescription but the risk of road traffic crash increased after an initiation of an antidepressant treatment (OR=1.49 (1.24 to 1.79)) and after a change in antidepressant treatment (OR=1.32 (1.09 to 1.60)).

Significance/Contribution to the Field Patients and prescribers should be warned about the risk of crash during periods of antidepressant medication and particularly high vulnerability periods such as those when a treatment is initiated or modified.
Risk of injurious road traffic crash after prescription of antidepressants

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