

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**UTILIZATION OF ANTIDEPRESSANT DRUGS
AT OUTPATIENT PHARMACY UNIT OF
HOSPITAL TENGKU AMPUAN RAHIMAH,
KLANG**

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ABSTRACT

This retrospective study was mainly designed to determine utilization of antidepressant drugs in Outpatient Pharmacy Unit of HTAR and to compare doses prescribed to the patients with the guideline and other references. 9114 prescriptions issued in December 2014 were analyzed and only 230 prescriptions fulfilled the inclusion criterias. Most of the antidepressant drugs prescribed to the patients were from selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) class with 66.5% followed atypical antidepressant, selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI), tricyclic antidepressant (TCA) and monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI). Majority of depressed patients were below 65 years old which is 85.2%. Almost 85.9% physicians prescribed antidepressant drugs within the guideline and other references such as British National Formulary, Drug Information Handbook and Malaysian's Clinical Practice Guideline of Major Depressive Disorder. Other than that, most of the antidepressant drugs prescribed to the patients by physician were using brand name instead of generic name. As a conclusion, majority of the antidepressant drugs prescribed to the patients were from SSRI class and the doses prescribed followed the guideline and other references.

Keywords: antidepressant drugs, SSRI, utilization pattern, doses

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Major depressive disorder (MDD) is characterized by depressed mood most of the time at least two weeks and / or loss of interest or pleasure in most activities (Katzung, page 521). According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank, depression is the fourth most disabling disease in the world (AMUTHAGANESH, SUHASINEE, & MATHIALAGAN, 2012). According to (Block & Nemeroff), depression is a common disorder which affect 16% of population in United States with an annual risk of a depressive episode of 6.6%. In Asia-Pacific region, rates of current or 1-month major depression ranged from 1.3 to 5.5% and rates of major depression in the previous year ranged from 1.7 to 6.7% and depression is the most commonly reported mental illness in Malaysia(Oei2, 2011).

Depressive disorder occurs within all age groups such as children, adolescent, adult and geriatric. Depression in child and adolescent have some diagnostic criteria that are same as those for adults such as mood change or loss of enjoyment lasting for at least two weeks, associated cognitive and biological symptoms, and functional impairment (Gledhill & Hodes, 2008). According to Lexicomp, if a person have five or more of the symptoms such as depressed mood most of the day, nearly every day, marked diminished interest or pleasure in all or almost activities, significant weight loss or weight gain, insomnia or hyperinsomnia , psychomotor agitation or retardation, fatigue or loss of energy , feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt, diminished ability to think or concentrate or indecisiveness and recurrent thought of death, suicidal ideation or a suicide attempt, the person is in situation of depression.

In addition (Sheets & Craighead, 2014) are reported that MDD is a leading cause of disability in adulthood. Depression of geriatric or older people is associated with increased helath care costs, mortality and reduced quality of life (Lee et al., 2012).