

Evaluation of the appropriateness of prescribing in geriatric patients using Beers' criteria and Phadke's criteria and comparison thereof by Rima Shah and colleagues

Sir,

I read the article 'Evaluation of the appropriateness of prescribing in geriatric patients using Beers' criteria and Phadke's criteria and comparison thereof by Rima Shah and colleagues with great interest and wish to make the following points.

A table showing the actual drugs prescribed to patients and classifying them according to Beers' criteria is missing. This defeats the purpose of the study which aims to highlight inappropriate drugs being prescribed to the elderly. A study has shown that not all drugs listed in Beers' list are available in India.^[1] A comparison with countries like Netherland using

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Beers' criteria cannot be made unless we know all the drugs available in that country.

It is surprising to note that the authors think using Beers' criteria is more difficult than the elaborate Phadke's criteria. Beers' criteria are a simple list of drugs to be avoided in elderly patients irrespective of their disease.^[2]

The article is interesting in the sense that it tries to forcefully make a conclusion that Phadke's criteria are the best among all to analyze the appropriateness of drug therapy in the elderly by making a reference to an unpublished thesis. Finally, it has been observed by many researchers that "although Beers' Criteria have become the most widely cited IP criteria in the literature, nevertheless, they have serious deficiencies, including several drugs that are rarely prescribed nowadays, a lack of structure in the presentation of the criteria and omission of several important and common Inappropriate Prescribing instances. New, more up-to-date, systems-based and easily applicable criteria are needed that can be applied in the routine clinical setting."^[3]

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