



Medications

- Aspirin 100mg daily
- Clopidogrel 75mg daily
- Atorvastatin 80mg nocte
- Diltiazem CD 240mg daily
- Frusemide 80mg BD
- Isosorbide mononitrate 60 daily
- Prazosin 2.5mg BD
- Buprenorphine patch
- Oxazepam at night
- Risedronate 35mg weekly
- Calcium/VitD 600mg/1000U
- Allopurinol 100mg daily
- Laxatives daily
- Omeprazole 20mg daily

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Guides for stopping:

- STOPP/START
- Beers criteria
- PIM
- Drug Burden Index

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Search



Learning Library and Research

Scientific Sessions, Prof Ed & Meetings

Professional Membership

Statements / Guidelines

Focus on Quality

Hospital Accreditation & Certification

Get With The Guidelines

Mission: Lifeline

The Guideline Advantage

Focus on Quality

THE MORE HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVES,
THE MORE PATIENT OUTCOMES DO TOO

See how Target: Stroke is making a difference



When medical professionals apply the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines, **patient outcomes improve.**

U.S. Medicare Statistics

- 20% of Medicare Beneficiaries have 5 or more chronic conditions
- Of these patients, 50% are on 5 or more medications

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Gnjidic D, Hilmer S, et al. Polypharmacy cutoff and outcomes: five or more medicine were used to identify community-dwelling older men at risk of different adverse outcomes. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2012; 65:989-95.

Benefits of polypharmacy:

- BB in CCF or ischemic heart dz
 - ACE or ARB in CCF
 - Spironolactone in systolic heart failure
 - digoxin
 - BP treatment
-
- but in the frail 87yo is the evidence strong?

ACE-Inhibitors and ARBs

- Wide range of indications:
 - Hypertension
 - Secondary Prevention of stroke
 - Reduction of CVD risk
 - Prevention of progression of renal disease (CKD, Diab. Nephropathy)
 - Systolic heart failure
- Most trials excluded frail patients
 - No chance to reach trial endpoints
- Practically, often lower dosages are used
 - (? Due to fear of adverse effects?)

Trial outcome

Effect of beta blockers on all cause mortality in heart failure^{5,10-12}

Trial	Drug	Treatment effect* (95% CI)
SENIORS	Nebivolol	0.88 (0.71 to 1.08) [†]
COPERNICUS	Carvedilol	0.65 (0.52 to 0.81)
CIBIS-II	Bisoprolol	0.66 (0.54 to 0.81)
MERIT-HF	Metoprolol-CR	0.66 (0.53 to 0.81)

* Hazard ratios with 95% confidence intervals, except for MERIT-HF, reported as a relative risk

[†] Not significant

Trial comparison

Patient characteristics in major trials of beta blockers in heart failure^{5,10-12}

Drug and trial	Age mean (years)	Female (%)	LVEF mean (%)
Nebivolol SENIORS n = 2128	76	38	36
Carvedilol COPERNICUS n = 2289	63	21	20
Bisoprolol CIBIS-II n = 2647	61	19	28
Metoprolol-CR MERIT-HF n = 3991	64	23	28

Potential perils of polypharmacy in the Elderly: consistent associations

- Falls
- Cognitive decline
- Adverse drug reactions
- Frailty
- Death

Effects of polypharmacy in the Elderly

- It's not simply the risks of polypharmacy
- Dwindling benefits of medications for single organ problems
- Diminishing chances of the patient realizing any improvement in life



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- Two groups of mice: young and old, four week intervention, with controls.
- Given five commonly prescribed meds: simvastatin, metoprolol, omeprazole, paracetamol, citalopram
- Old mice: polypharmacy caused significant decrease in locomotor activity; loss of improvement in rotarod latency; and front paw wire holding impulse, lowered blood pressure.

- Huizer-Pajkos A, et al. Adverse geriatric outcomes secondary to polypharmacy in a mouse model: the influence of aging. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci. 2015 May 4.

South Australia: older (>75yo) patients going to RCF

- Patients discharged from hospital to RCF have 25-70% one year mortality
- Patients discharged from GEM to home have 20% one year mortality

Not every 34 year old is the same



THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

LINUS PAULING

A THOUGHT OF NUTRITION CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE



HOW TO LIVE
LONGER AND
FEEL BETTER

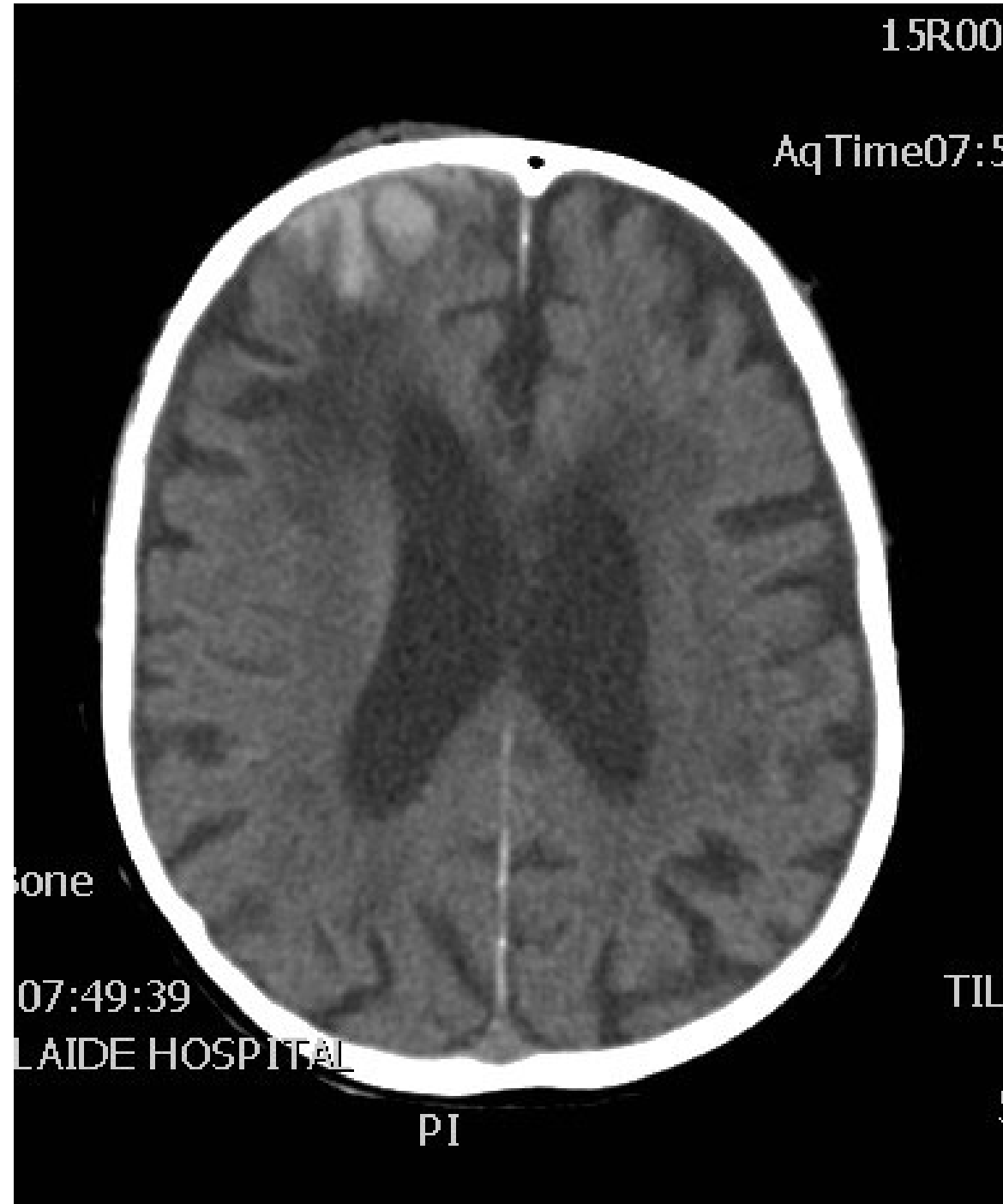


Identifying the tipping point



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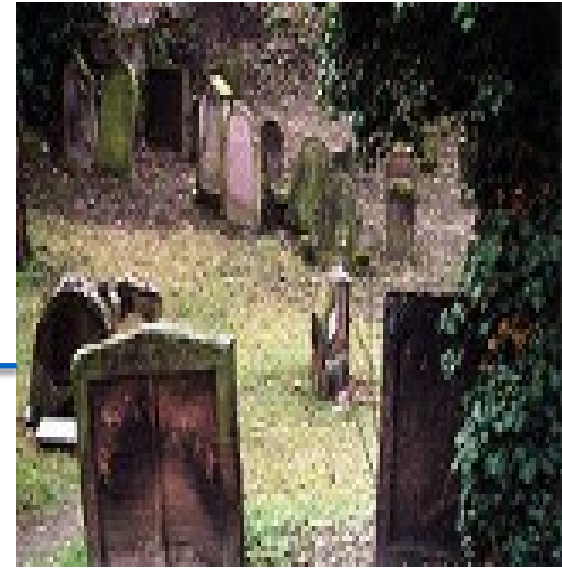
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Prognostic tool applied at the tipping point or when circumstances change



The role for a RCT: “..a valid determination of a treatment’s efficacy and safety.”

- Polypharmacy = harm?
- Deprescribing = benefit?

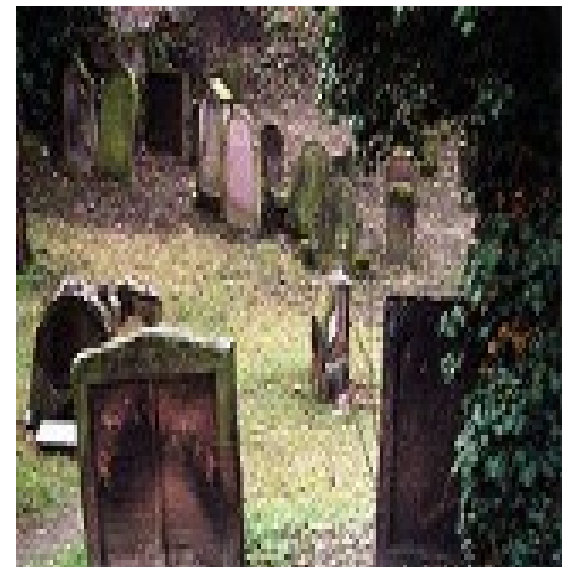
Any prospective deprescribing studies so far?

- Garfinkel 2007
- Non-randomised, 120 intervention, 70 controls
- 12 month follow up
- Avg 3 drugs stopped per patient
- 1yr mortality: 45% in control group; 21% in study group
- Referral to hospital: 30% in control, 12% study

Garfinkel D et al. IMAJ 2007; 9: 430-34

what did those patients look like?

- age: 82 +/- 8yr
- 95% demented
- MMSE=14
- double incontinence >90%
- 10% with CCF



which medications were ceased?

nitrates

H2 blockers

- antiHTN
- diuretics
- iron
- sedatives
- antidepressants
- antipsychotics

barriers to deprescribing:

- Doctors: busy (time); lack of demonstrated safety; lack of guidelines
- Patients: attachment to medicine regime
- Staff: antipsychotics and dementia

Australian efforts

- Australian Deprescribing Network (ADeN)
- OptiMED, Perth
- South Australian Deprescribing Initiative

South Australian Deprescribing Initiative (SADI)

- In-hospital enrollment
 - Multi-Domain
 - Patient-centred
 - Expert opinion
 - Gen.Pract. Involvement
 - Community pharmacy involvement

Outcomes

- Mortality
- Readmission
- Patient qual.of life measures

reflection on the opening story, preventable death

- is allowing a person to die from the natural progression of a disease the same as slowly poisoning them with medications to prevent death?

Ways to improve our practice of medicine

- Deliberate practice each day
- Feedback (360)
- Clinical research

Data collection in the trenches

- Consultant physician: while listening to presentation by house officer, entering basic data
- Using checklists, data entry can be a standard part of every admission.
- Each patient admitted to hospital is entered into a study protocol.
- Potential for General Medicine patients, in city or regional Australia



www.projectredcap.org



REDCap: research data collection application

- Free
- Web-based
- Secure (HIPPA compliant)
- Dashboard/instruments can be constructed without experience
- Versatile
- Control: administrator can tailor which user has access to which tool



- **Availability** - Software is available at no cost for REDCap Consortium Partners.
- **Secure and web-based** - Input data or build an online survey or database from anywhere in the world over a secure web connection with authentication and data logging.
- **Fast and flexible** - Conception to production-level database or survey in less than one day.
- **Multi-site access** - REDCap databases/surveys can be used by researchers from multiple sites and institutions.

- **Export data to common data analysis packages-** Exports raw data and syntax files for SAS, Stata, R, and SPSS.
- **Fully customizable** - You are in total control of shaping your database or survey

How to do this:

- Find someone with a license or approach REDCap directly
- Need a server (e.g. University of Adelaide)
- Sign up for a free trial

- Decide on a title of your project
- Development phase, testing, etc.
- Production mode

www.projectredcap.org

End

Thank you