

## **Dose antidepressant prescription increase the risk of mortality in patients with dementia?**

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### **Background**

Prevalence of dementia is increasing worldwide and dementia is easily comorbid with depression during its disease course. In addition, the safety concern is rising nowadays regarding to the prescription of psychotropic agents in patients with dementia.

### **Aims & Objectives**

Thus, the co-primary aims in our study were: 1) to compare the all-cause mortality between patients with dementia who had or did not have depression, and 2) to assess the safety issue of prescribing antidepressants in dementia with depression.

### **Methods**

The design herein was a population-based retrospective cohort study that utilizing the National Health Insurance (NHI) medical claims data in Taiwan collected between 1997 and 2013. We identified 37,883 cases who had newly diagnosed dementia with incident depression afterwards and 75,766 matched controls of dementia without depression. All-cause mortality between two groups and safety of prescribing antidepressants was analyzed.

### **Results**

Patients with dementia who had incident depression afterwards showed significantly increased all-cause mortality compared with matched controls after adjusting for covariates. For those patients with dementia who had depression, prescription of antidepressants could decrease mortality especially for those who had longer treatment duration.

### **Discussion & Conclusion**

associated with increased all-cause mortality. In addition, antidepressants treatment showed significantly protective efficacy.