

MEDICATION OVERUSE IN PATIENTS WITH HEADACHE AND COVID 19 INFECTION

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Introduction: Medication-overuse in patients with headache is the most important risk factor for chronification and persistence. **The Aim** of the study was to analyze the use of analgesic in patients with headache and COVID 19 infection and evaluate medication overuse according to international criteria.

Materials and methods: An online survey, launched through social media channels from January till June 2021, was completed by patients with headache and COVID 19 disease. Validated questionnaire gathered data on: demographics, COVID infection, the characteristics of headache before, during and after COVID 19 infection, abortive headache medication, behavior, sleep disorders, anxiety and depression.

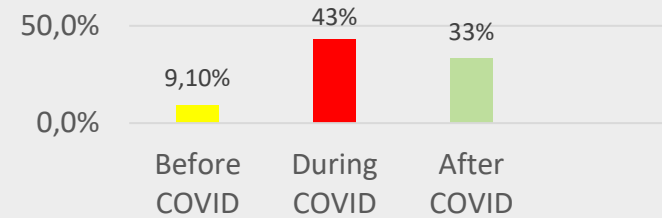


Fig. 1. Medication overuse



Results: The study included 131 participants: 14 men (10.6%) and 117 women (89.31%), mean age - $37 \pm 8,16$ years. Before COVID 19 infection participants used analgesic drugs on 3.67 ± 2.96 days / month, during the COVID 19 infection month - 10.44 ± 8.81 days / month, and in the post-Covid period - 12.27 ± 9.73 days / month. From the study group 9.1% of patients had medication overuse before COVID 19, during the Covid 19 period – 43% and after the Covid 19 – 33%.

Conclusions: The study proved an increased analgesic consumption during and after the COVID 19 infection, possible due to the association of a secondary headache namely headache attributed to infection. The other factors that will be elucidated in further research.