

Table 1: Characteristics of 37 241 elderly residents of British Columbia who began taking antipsychotic medications between Jan. 1, 1996, and Dec. 31, 2004

Characteristic	Type of antipsychotic medication; no. (%) of patients*		Odds ratio	p value
	Conventional n = 12 882	Atypical n = 24 359		
Age, yr, mean (SD)	79.9 (8.8)	80.3 (8.4)	—	< 0.001
Sex, male	5120 (39.7)	8565 (35.2)	1.2	< 0.001
History				
Cardiac arrhythmia	6 (0.0)	22 (0.1)	0.5	0.14
Cerebrovascular disease	1391 (10.8)	2430 (10.0)	1.1	0.013
Congestive heart failure	1084 (8.4)	1455 (6.0)	1.5	< 0.001
Diabetes mellitus	1939 (15.1)	3362 (13.8)	1.1	0.001
Myocardial infarction	354 (2.7)	551 (2.3)	1.2	0.052
Other ischemic heart disease	493 (3.8)	665 (2.7)	1.4	< 0.001
Other cardiovascular disorder	2609 (20.3)	4075 (16.7)	1.3	< 0.001
Cancer	0	0	—	—
HIV infection	0	4 (0.0)	0.0	0.15
Dementia	1247 (9.7)	3087 (12.7)	0.7	< 0.001
Delirium	967 (7.5)	2060 (8.5)	0.9	< 0.002
Mood disorder	2013 (15.6)	6198 (25.4)	0.5	< 0.001
Psychotic disorder	1446 (11.2)	4103 (16.8)	0.6	< 0.001
Other psychiatric disorder	403 (3.1)	1110 (4.6)	0.7	< 0.001
Use of other drugs				
Antidepressant	3645 (28.3)	10154 (41.7)	0.6	< 0.001
Other psychotropic medication	542 (4.2)	920 (3.8)	1.1	0.040
Prior anticholinergic drug use	1140 (8.9)	1709 (7.0)	1.3	< 0.001
Current anticholinergic drug use	1868 (14.5)	2591 (10.6)	1.4	< 0.001
Total no. of drugs used, mean (SD)	7.4 (5.1)	7.3 (5.0)	—	0.60
Hospital admission in previous 180 d	1923 (14.9)	3204 (13.2)	1.2	< 0.001
Nursing home residence in previous 180 d	3980 (30.9)	6471 (26.6)	1.2	< 0.001

*Unless stated otherwise.