

Appendix 6: Prevalence of acute/short-term illnesses and most common medications used at any time during pregnancy by ATC level, indication for use and region (n=9,459) *†

Prevalence of acute/short-term illnesses in pregnancy and related medication use, overall and by drug groups	REGION						Total
	Western Europe n=3,201 n (%)	Northern Europe n=2,820 n (%)	Eastern Europe n=2,342 n (%)	North America n=533 n (%)	South America n=346 n (%)	Australia n=217 n (%)	
Prevalence of headache	1,699 (53.1)	1,657 (58.8)	1,138 (48.6)	373 (70.0)	197 (56.9)	147 (67.7)	5,211 (55.1)
Medication use for headache, total	1,027 (32.1)	1,057 (37.5)	522 (22.3)	226 (42.4)	121 (35.0)	109 (50.2)	3,062 (32.4)
<i>By drug group</i>							
Paracetamol (incl. combinations) (N02BE)	994 (31.1)	1,009 (35.8)	372 (15.9)	206 (38.6)	92 (26.6)	101 (46.5)	2,774 (29.3)
Non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs (M01A)	28 (0.9)	78 (2.8)	37 (1.6)	18 (3.0)	18 (5.2)	2 (0.9)	179 (1.9)
Acetylsalicylic acid (incl. combinations) (N02BA)	7 (0.2)	4 (0.1)	81 (3.5)	1 (0.2)	4 (1.2)	2 (0.9)	99 (1.0)
Opioid analgesics (N02A)	14 (0.4)	46 (1.6)	3 (0.1)	3 (0.6)	-	13 (6.0)	79 (0.8)
Selective serotonin (5-HT ₁) agonists (N02CC)	6 (0.2)	22 (0.8)	2 (0.1)	3 (0.6)	-	1 (0.5)	34 (0.4)
Prevalence of heartburn	2,196 (68.6)	1,875 (66.5)	1,425 (60.8)	374 (70.2)	248 (71.7)	141 (65.0)	6,259 (66.2)
Medication use for heartburn, total	984 (30.7)	885 (31.4)	525 (22.4)	202 (37.9)	88 (25.4)	72 (33.2)	2,756 (29.1)
<i>By drug group</i>							
Antacids (aluminium, salts combinations, antiflatulents)	384 (12.0)	503 (17.8)	440 (18.8)	51 (9.6)	63 (18.2)	20 (9.2)	1,461 (15.4)
Alginic acid complex/sucralfate/bismuth (A02BX)	569 (17.8)	332 (11.8)	86 (3.7)	4 (0.8)	3 (0.9)	14 (6.5)	1,008 (10.7)
Proton pump inhibitors (A02BC)	77 (2.4)	86 (3.0)	4 (0.2)	13 (2.4)	3 (0.9)	7 (3.2)	190 (2.0)
Antacid with calcium (A02AC)	20 (0.6)	13 (0.5)	10 (0.4)	123 (23.1)	2 (0.6)	9 (4.1)	177 (1.9)
H ₂ receptor antagonists (A02BA)	27 (0.8)	27 (1.0)	7 (0.3)	45 (8.4)	5 (1.4)	38 (17.5)	149 (1.6)
Prevalence of pain	2,150 (67.2)	2,067 (73.3)	1,484 (63.4)	369 (69.2)	248 (71.7)	157 (72.4)	6,475 (68.5)
Medication use for pain, total	533 (16.7)	426 (15.1)	147 (6.3)	110 (20.6)	80 (23.1)	59 (27.2)	1,355 (14.3)
<i>By drug group</i>							
Paracetamol (incl. combinations) (N02BE)	444 (13.9)	374 (13.3)	65 (2.8)	99 (18.6)	44 (12.7)	55 (25.3)	1,081 (11.4)

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Non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs (M01A)	19 (0.6)	36 (1.3)	21 (0.9)	11 (2.1)	24 (6.9)	3 (1.4)	114 (1.2)
Opioid analgesics (N02A)	39 (1.2)	51 (1.8)	2 (0.1)	4 (0.8)	-	12 (5.5)	108 (1.1)
Prevalence of nausea	2,324 (72.6)	2,244 (79.6)	1,503 (64.2)	409 (76.7)	238 (68.8)	173 (79.7)	6,891 (72.9)
Medication use for nausea, total	413 (12.9)	380 (13.5)	140 (6.0)	128 (24.0)	71 (20.5)	39 (18.0)	1,171 (12.4)
<i>By drug group</i>							
First generation antihistamines (R06A)	150 (4.7)	259 (9.2)	21 (0.9)	84 (15.9)	9 (2.6)	4 (1.8)	527 (5.6)
Metoclopramide/domperidone/bromopride (A03FA)	134 (4.2)	69 (2.4)	27 (1.2)	10 (1.9)	45 (13.0)	25 (11.5)	310 (3.3)
Serotonin antagonists (A04AA)	4 (0.1)	8 (0.3)	1 (0.0)	28 (5.3)	1 (0.3)	11 (5.1)	53 (0.6)
Prevalence of UTI	513 (16.0)	327 (11.6)	452 (19.3)	93 (17.4)	92 (26.6)	25 (11.5)	1,502 (15.9)
Medication use for UTI, total	315 (9.8)	221 (7.8)	192 (8.2)	56 (10.5)	63 (18.2)	17 (7.8)	864 (9.1)
<i>By drug group</i>							
Unspecified penicillins (J01C-)	94 (2.9)	99 (3.5)	46 (2.0)	16 (3.0)	17 (4.9)	1 (0.5)	273 (2.9)
NOS Antibacterials for systemic use (J01-)	116 (3.6)	85 (3.0)	25 (1.1)	20 (3.8)	14 (4.0)	6 (2.8)	266 (2.8)
Penicillins with extended spectrum +/- beta-lactamase inhibitors (J01CA/J01CR)	85 (2.7)	78 (2.8)	44 (1.9)	14 (2.6)	17 (4.9)	1 (0.5)	239 (2.5)
Nitrofurantoin (J01XE)	7 (0.2)	25 (0.9)	54 (2.3)	10 (1.9)	3 (0.9)	1 (0.5)	100 (1.1)
Cephalosporins (J01D)	20 (0.6)	10 (0.4)	36 (1.5)	2 (0.4)	11 (3.2)	6 (2.8)	85 (0.9)
Total prevalence of any acute/short-term illness	3,159 (98.7)	2,803 (99.4)	2,299 (98.2)	523 (98.1)	341 (98.6)	214 (98.6)	9,339 (98.7)
Total medication use for any acute/short-term illness	2,224 (69.5)	1,954 (69.3)	1,474 (62.9)	403 (75.6)	250 (72.3)	164 (75.6)	6,469 (68.4)

*Countries are grouped into regions as shown in Figure 1.

†Sums of percentages do not add up to total medication use as only most common medication groups are presented. Rates do not include mineral supplements, vitamins, iron, and herbal or alternative medicine products.

Abbreviations: UTI: Urinary tract infection; NOS: Not otherwise specified.