

Baclofen-related deaths in Australia, 2000-2022

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Introduction and aims: In Australia, the therapeutic indication of baclofen (oral tablets) is for voluntary muscle spasm suppression. Specifically, for management of muscular abnormalities pertaining to multiple sclerosis and spinal lesions. An indication that is not approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (off-label use) for baclofen is alcohol use disorder. As a central nervous system depressant baclofen toxicity can be fatal, with clinical signs of sedation, depressed level of consciousness and respiratory depression. Contraindications include concurrent alcohol consumption, tricyclic antidepressant use and psychiatric disorders. Misuse, dependence, self-poisoning and deaths related to baclofen have been reported. This national retrospective study aims to investigate the number, characteristics, and circumstances of baclofen-related deaths in Australia, 2000-2022. To our knowledge, this is the first national case series of baclofen-related deaths.

Methods: The analysis will be completed by extracting key information from The National Coronial Information System (NCIS), which is a centralised database of Australian and New Zealand coronial cases. Toxicology and autopsy findings will be summarised.

Results: Analysis is currently underway, results are forthcoming.

Discussions and Conclusions: The findings will provide further insight into the nature and rates of baclofen-related premature mortality. These findings may inform clinical decision making and increase awareness of at-risk populations.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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