



2015 Survey on Experiences with Mental Health Medication /Generic Substitution

Over the past few years CADDAC has been receiving anecdotal evidence from caregivers, patients and treating physicians, indicating a decrease in the degree and length of symptom control and an increase in side effects when patients were switched from brand-name to generic medication. CADDAC was unable to access clinical research evidence to gain further insight into this potential issue. So, in order to acquire a better understanding we required a way to quantify the seriousness of this issue for our patient population. To assist with this CADDAC joined in discussion with other organizations supporting those with mental health conditions to find a way to gain more insight into this potential issue. The organizations did not have a position on the efficacy of generic versus brand name medications; but rather wished to better understand the direct experiences of people who rely on various medications as part of their treatment.

The organizations felt that there was currently insufficient information to allow them to fully understand whether substitution of generic medication was an issue for individuals and families living with mental health conditions and illnesses. To better understand our population's direct experiences with medications, a nation-wide survey was launched requesting feedback from individuals, caregivers and healthcare providers on existing knowledge and experience with brand name and generic medications.

The survey Findings have been analyzed and summarized. Here are the findings pertinent to ADHD medications and two additional medications that might be used by some of you for co-occurring conditions.

About the Survey

The Mental Health/Neurological Medication Survey was launched online in fall 2015. This 15-minute survey received responses from 399 respondents, representing patients, parents and caregivers of various mental health conditions and neurological conditions from across Canada. A manuscript summarizing the results and findings of the survey is currently in preparation.

Preliminary Survey Findings

General Findings:

- Of the 294 respondents who completed the survey and gave consent for their medical details to be shared with Health Canada:
 - o 42% (122/294) of the respondents were patients, 51% (150/294) of the respondents were parents and 7% (22/294) of the respondents were caregivers
 - o 37% (110/294) of the individuals identified as having a mental health or neurological condition were under the age of 18
- 54% (159/294) of respondents named ADHD as their primary mental health condition/neurological disorder
- Of the 79 respondents who reported taking both brand-name and generic versions of medication for their mental health condition/neurological disorder:
 - o 53% (42/79) of the respondents stated that, based on the differences experienced between brand-name and generic versions, the brand-name version was better
 - o 22% (17/79) of the respondents stated that the changes in symptom control were tolerable while 24% (19/79) stated that the changes in symptom control were intolerable after switching.

- 46% (36/79) of the respondents experienced changes in functioning (at school, work or home)
- 44% (35/79) of the respondents switched back to the brand-name version of the drug

Findings Related to CONCERTA®:

The information below describes survey findings with regards to the use of brand-name and generic versions of CONCERTA

- 25 respondents reported taking both brand-name and generic versions of CONCERTA®
 - 76% (19/25) of the respondents perceived different benefits or side effects between brand-name and generic versions of CONCERTA®
 - 84% (21/25) of the respondents preferred the brand-name version, based on the differences experienced between brand-name and generic versions
 - When asked to describe the differences they had noticed between brand-name and generic versions of CONCERTA®, the respondents provided the following comments: (Please note this is not an exhaustive list of all comments.)
 - *“The effects of the drug did not last as long on the generic.”*
 - *“medications were more consistent throughout the day.”*
 - *“Brand name provided more focus”*
 - *“too soon to tell”*
 - *“the brand version was more effective at slowing me down so I could have that extra `moment` to think before reacting to things”*
 - *“generic gave a quicker “spike” and did not last as long; brand name felt more stable”*
 - *“the generic version seemed to increase rapidity of speech and hyperactivity*
 - As a result of the switch between brand-name and generic versions of CONCERTA®:
 - 36% (9/25) of the respondents found changes in symptom control that were intolerable
 - 76% (19/25) of the respondents experienced changes in functioning (ability to function at school, work or home)
 - 76% (19/25) of the respondents switched back to the brand-name version
 - Of the 19 patients who switched back to the brand name product:
 - 16 (84%) had their symptoms re-stabilize after going back to brand
 - 2 patients reported they were unsure if their symptoms got better
 - 1 patient reported that symptoms worsened

Findings Related to STRATTERA®:

The information below describes survey findings with regards to the use of brand-name and generic versions of STRATTERA

- 7 respondents reported taking both brand-name and generic versions of STRATTERA®
 - 43% (3/7) of the respondents perceived different benefits or side effects between brand-name and generic versions of STRATTERA®
 - 43% (3/7) of the respondents preferred the brand-name version, based on the differences experienced between brand-name and generic versions
 - When asked to describe the differences they had noticed between brand-name and generic versions of STRATTERA®, the respondents provided the following comments: (Please note this is not an exhaustive list of all comments.)
 - *“not an even feeling throughout day”*
 - *“better control of symptoms on brand”*
 - As a result of the switch between brand-name and generic versions of STRATTERA®:
 - 43% (3/7) of the respondents found changes in symptom control that were intolerable

- 43% (3/7) of the respondents experienced changes in functioning (ability to function at school, work or home)
- 43% (3/7) of the respondents switched back to the brand-name version
 - All 3 patients who switched back to the brand name product had their symptoms re-stabilize after going back to brand

Findings Related to WELLBUTRIN®:

The information below describes survey findings with regards to the use of brand-name and generic versions of WELLBUTRIN

- 8 respondents reported taking both brand-name and generic versions of WELLBUTRIN®
 - 88% (7/8) of the respondents perceived different benefits or side effects between brand-name and generic versions of WELLBUTRIN®
 - 88% (7/8) of the respondents preferred the brand-name version, based on the differences experienced between brand-name and generic versions
 - When asked to describe the differences they had noticed between brand-name and generic versions of WELLBUTRIN®, the respondents provided the following comments: (Please note this is not an exhaustive list of all comments.)
 - *“Sleep disturbances, sexual dysfunction”*
 - *“Trembling, dazed, horrible side effects”*
 - *“The generic version made me very angry”*
 - *“Brand name was just more effective in increasing focus”*
 - As a result of the switch between brand-name and generic versions of WELLBUTRIN®:
 - 38% (3/8) of the respondents found changes in symptom control that were intolerable
 - 75% (6/8) of the respondents experienced changes in functioning (ability to function at school, work or home)
 - 75% (6/8) of the respondents switched back to the brand-name version
 - All 6 patients who switched back to the brand name product had their symptoms re-stabilize after going back to brand

Findings Related to CIPRALEX®:

The information below describes survey findings with regards to the use of brand-name and generic versions of CIPRALEX

- 7 respondents reported taking both brand-name and generic versions of CIPRALEX®
 - 43% (3/7) of the respondents perceived different benefits or side effects between brand-name and generic versions of CIPRALEX®
 - 71% (5/7) of the respondents preferred the brand-name version, based on the differences experienced between brand-name and generic versions
 - When asked to describe the differences they had noticed between brand-name and generic versions of CIPRALEX®, the respondents provided the following comments: (Please note this is not an exhaustive list of all comments.)
 - *“More groggy, tired, felt depressed and sad on generic”*
 - *“brand name worked to elevate mood better than the generic”*
 - As a result of the switch between brand-name and generic versions of CIPRALEX®:
 - 29% (2/7) of the respondents found changes in symptom control that were intolerable
 - 57% (4/7) of the respondents experienced changes in functioning (ability to function at school, work or home)
 - 43% (3/7) of the respondents switched back to the brand-name version

All 3 patients who switched back to the brand name product had their symptoms re-stabilize after going back to brand.