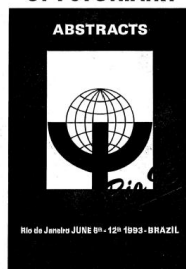


**NATIONAL PRESCRIBING PATTERNS OF
PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS BY NON-
PSYCHIATRIST**

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In Argentina, the psychotropic medication sales reaches 33% of the ethical pharmaceutical market. However, no previously existing statistics, document the motives of the non-psychiatrist prescribing psychopharmacological agents. This study of prescribing patterns was done by members of the Psychopharmacology Section of the Argentinian Psychiatric Association. 390 medical doctors (275 men, 115 women), 38±11 years were surveyed. 80,5% prescribed 2,4±2 psychotropic medication and 26,7% prescribed up to 4 agents. 76,7% prescribed anxiolytics, 18,7% neuroleptics, 12,1% antidepressants, 10,3% anti-convulsivants and 0,26% psychostimulants. The deficiency in rational use of psychotropic medication, verified in this small sample suggests an urgent need for consciousness training in graduate and post-graduate levels of education. This situation merits further awareness counseling, public health officials and medical associations in order to prevent future addictive disorders.

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