

Supplementary Materials

Persistence to Medications for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia/Benign Prostatic Obstruction-Associated Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms in the ASL TO4 Regione Piemonte (Italy)

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Drug prescription networks

A network approach was adopted as a data mining technique to investigate the complexity of drug prescriptions (Miglio et al., 2021). In particular, data on prescriptions of each $ATC_{i,L}$ (where i refers to drug classification at the given ATC level L) and prescriptions of pairs $ATC_{i,L}-ATC_{j,L}$ (with $i \neq j$) were considered. In a drug prescription network, the nodes were the $ATC_{i,L}$ s found in the dataset and represented the number of patients prescribed with drug i within ATC-level L during the follow-up. The edges were the pairs $ATC_{i,L}-ATC_{j,L}$ s and represented the number of patients prescribed with the drug pairs i and j within ATC-level L during the follow-up.

All analyses were performed using the R statistical and programming language (version 4.2.0; <https://cran.r-project.org/>) and the add-on package igraph.

Miglio, G.; Basso, L.; Armando, L.G.; Traina, S.; Benetti, E.; Diarassouba, A.; Baroetto Parisi, R.; Esiliato, M.; Rolando, C.; Remani, E.; Cena, C. A network approach for the study of drug prescriptions: analysis of administrative records from a local health unit (ASL TO4, Regione Piemonte, Italy). *Int J Environ Res Public Health* **2021**, *18*(9), 4859.

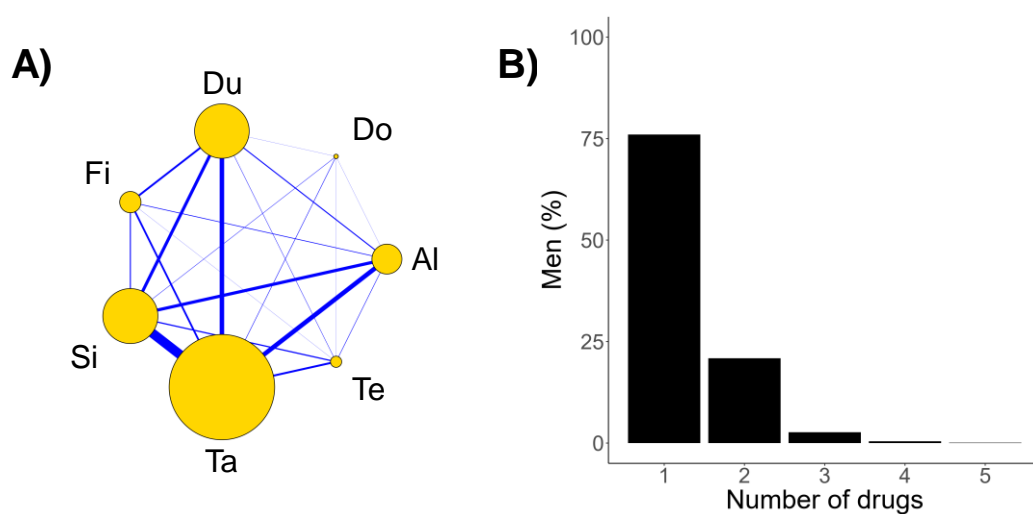


Figure S1. Prescription of drugs for the treatment of BPH/BPO-associated LUTS in the overall study population. **(A)** Data on drug prescriptions were analysed to generate a drug prescription network that correspond to the level 5 of the ATC classification system. Nodes represent the seven study drugs: alfuzosin (Al), doxazosin (Do), dutasteride (Du), finasteride (Fi), silodosin (Si), tamsulosin (Ta) and terazosin (Te). Node diameter and edge thickness were proportional to the number of patients prescribed with the individual ATC_s and the pairs ATC_i–ATC_j within the ATC level 5, respectively. **(B)** Distribution of patients with respect to the number of drugs prescribed.

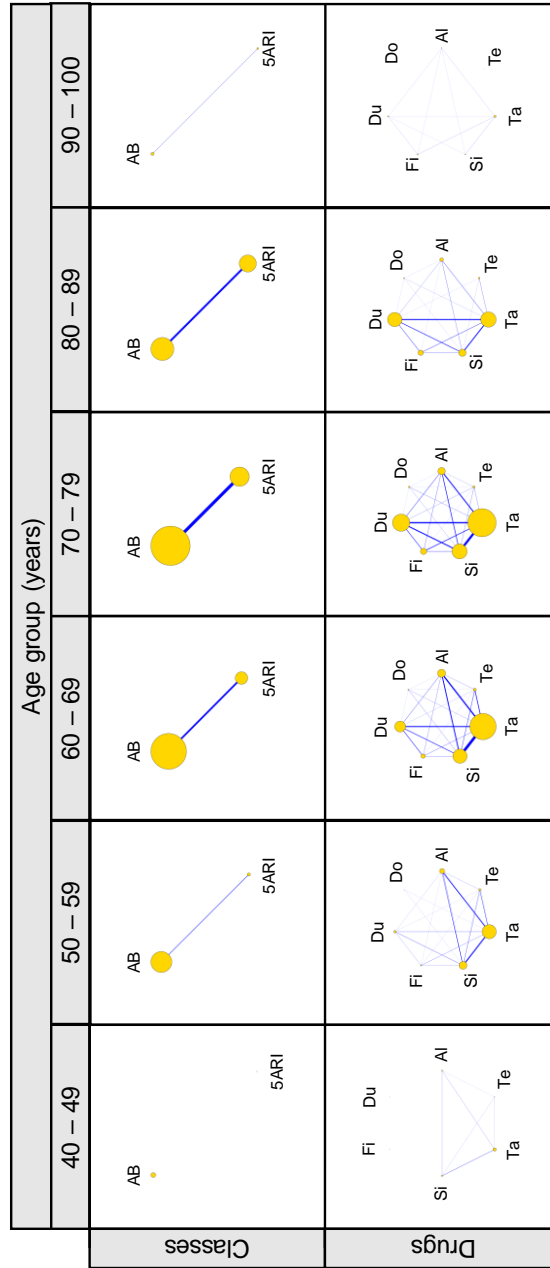


Figure S2. Drug prescription networks in the pre-specified age groups. Data on drug prescriptions were analysed to generate a drug prescription network that correspond to either the level 4 (pharmacological classes) or the level 5 (drugs) of the ATC classification system. Nodes represent either the two pharmacological classes: AB and 5ARI; or the seven study drugs: alfuzosin (Al), doxazosin (Do), dutasteride (Du), finasteride (Fi), silodosin (Si), tamsulosin (Ta), and terazosin (Te). Node diameter and edge thickness were proportional to the number of patients prescribed with the individual ATCs and the pairs ATC_i–ATC_j within the ATC level 5, respectively.