



HAL
open science

The reporting of disproportionality analysis in pharmacovigilance: spotlight on the READUS-PV guideline

Michele Fusaroli, Francesco Salvo, Charles Khouri, Emanuel Raschi

► To cite this version:

Michele Fusaroli, Francesco Salvo, Charles Khouri, Emanuel Raschi. The reporting of disproportionality analysis in pharmacovigilance: spotlight on the READUS-PV guideline. *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, 2024, 15, pp.1488725. 10.3389/fphar.2024.1488725 . hal-04920784

HAL Id: hal-04920784

<https://hal.science/hal-04920784v1>

Submitted on 30 Jan 2025

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License



OPEN ACCESS

EDITED BY

Bernd Rosenkranz,
Fundisa African Academy of Medicines
Development, South Africa

REVIEWED BY

Tarek A. Hammad,
Takeda Pharmaceuticals Inc., United States
Rolf Bass,
Retired, Germany

*CORRESPONDENCE

Emanuel Raschi,
✉ emanuel.raschi@unibo.it

RECEIVED 30 August 2024

ACCEPTED 14 November 2024

PUBLISHED 27 November 2024

CITATION

Fusaroli M, Salvo F, Khouri C and Raschi E (2024)

The reporting of disproportionality analysis in
pharmacovigilance: spotlight on the READUS-
PV guideline.


Front. Pharmacol. 15:1488725.

doi: 10.3389/fphar.2024.1488725

COPYRIGHT

© 2024 Fusaroli, Salvo, Khouri and Raschi. This
is an open-access article distributed under the
terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution
License \(CC BY\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). The use, distribution or
reproduction in other forums is permitted,
provided the original author(s) and the
copyright owner(s) are credited and that the
original publication in this journal is cited, in
accordance with accepted academic practice.
No use, distribution or reproduction is
permitted which does not comply with these
terms.

The reporting of disproportionality analysis in pharmacovigilance: spotlight on the READUS-PV guideline

Michele Fusaroli¹, Francesco Salvo^{2,3}, Charles Khouri^{4,5} and
Emanuel Raschi  ^{1*}

¹Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, ²Université de Bordeaux, INSERM, BPH, Team AHead, U1219, Bordeaux, France, ³CHU de Bordeaux, Service de Pharmacologie Médicale, INSERM, U1219, Bordeaux, France, ⁴University Grenoble Alpes, Pharmacovigilance Unit, Grenoble Alpes University Hospital, Grenoble, France, ⁵University Grenoble Alpes, Inserm U1300, HP2, Grenoble, France

Disproportionality analyses are the most-commonly used study design used in the post-marketing phase to detect suspected adverse drug reactions in individual case safety reports. Recent years have witnessed an exponential increase in published articles on disproportionality analyses, thanks to publicly accessible databases. Unfortunately, this trend was accompanied by concerns on lack of transparency and misinterpretation of results, both generating unjustified alarm and diluting true signals into overwhelming noise. The READUS-PV guideline for reporting disproportionality analysis was developed to tackle this emerging issue. In this perspective article, we describe the rationale behind the development of the READUS-PV guideline, the first collaborative initiative to harmonize the reporting of disproportionality analyses. The adoption of the checklists will assist researchers, regulators, and reviewers in the reporting, assessment, and publication of disproportionality analyses. Acknowledging the challenges ahead of effective implementation, we advocate for a global endorsement by Pharmacology Journals. A wide dissemination of the READUS-PV guideline is crucial to foster transparency and reproducibility of pharmacovigilance research, supporting an effective exploitation of disproportionality analysis among other irreplaceable post-marketing research tools to ensure drug safety.

KEYWORDS

disproportionality analysis, individual case safety reports, pharmacovigilance, adverse drug reactions, signal detection

1 Disproportionality analysis: Basic concepts

Individual case safety reports (ICSRs) of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are the main post-marketing data source used for detecting new safety signals, possibly resulting in regulatory measures such as safety-related labeling changes. ICSR, collected in dedicated archives, are either spontaneously reported by healthcare professionals and patients or generated within active surveillance activities (Tau et al., 2019; Croteau et al., 2022; Sartori et al., 2023).

Disproportionality analysis (DA) is a study design based on ICSR and developed to identify drug-event combinations for which the count of observed cases exceeds the count

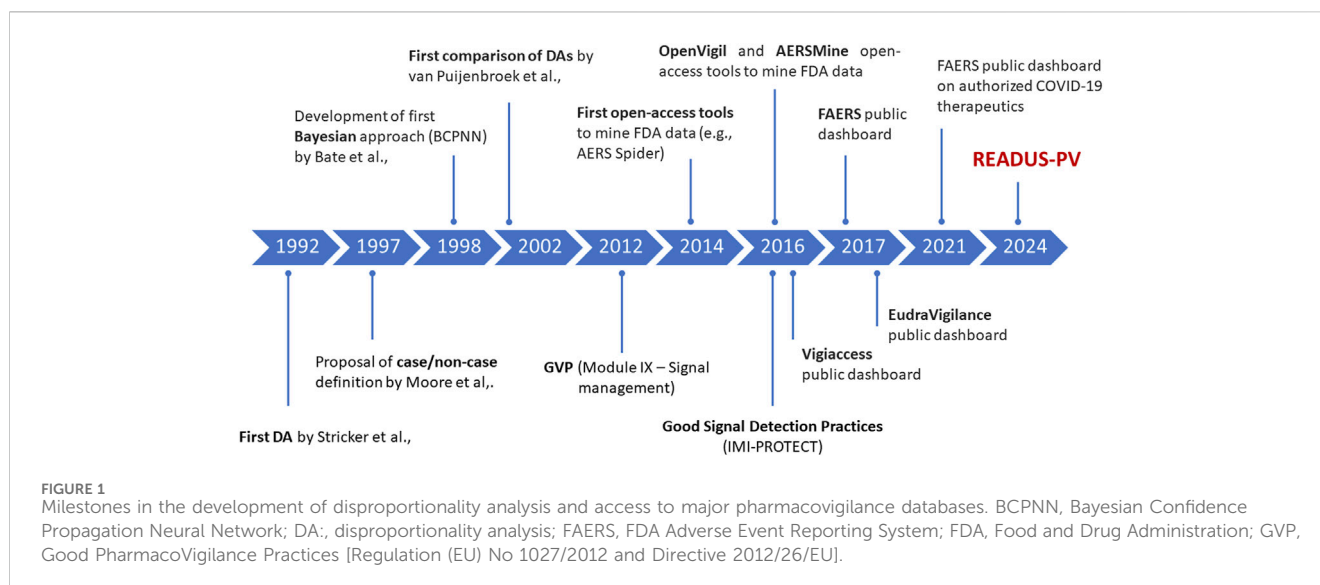


TABLE 1 Key advantages for pharmacovigilance stakeholders adopting the READUS-PV guideline.

Stakeholder	Advantages
Researcher	Preparation of transparent articles on DA; promote an adequate interpretation of the results and their limitations; support during study conception and design; allow self-assessment and reproducibility by other researchers; plan a pharmaco-epidemiological research based on the results of READUS-PV-compliant DA
Regulator (and clinician)	Better understanding of the results and their limitations, to appreciate the potential regulatory impact and the actual transferability in clinical practice
Reviewer (and Editor)	Increase the speed and accuracy of the peer-review process; facilitate critical appraisal of the results; focus on content (scientific aspects) rather than reporting; support desk rejection vs. external peer-review (this editorial task could be potentially automated, at least partially, through artificial intelligence tools)

of expected cases (generating the so-called signal of disproportionate reporting–SDR). The first published attempt to evaluate the extent of reporting using ICSRs was by Bruno Stricker in 1992, who explored the association between cefaclor exposure and serum sickness reactions (Stricker and Tijssen, 1992). Five years later, Moore et al., (Moore et al., 1997), introduced the concept of “case/non case method” when performing DA, to distinguish it from the case-control design used in pharmaco-epidemiological research (Figure 1).

Several DA approaches exist today, distinct by underlying assumption, rationale, and calculation. Despite efforts to identify general recommendations on the best approach, no absolute gold standard currently exists (Bate et al., 1998; van Puijenbroek et al., 2002; Wisniewski et al., 2016; Ding et al., 2020; Fusaroli et al., 2024c). Instead, the choice of the approach should explicitly depend on various factors, including the research purpose, database size, drug characteristics and ADR features (Jiao et al., 2024).

Although these approaches are known as “quantitative” methods (Bate and Evans, 2009), two major issues need to be considered. First, due to the lack of information about reporting rates and drug exposure, the incidence of an ADR (i.e., measures of risk) cannot be estimated. Second, because of numerous biases affecting observational data, the presence of an SDR *per se* does not necessarily imply a causal drug-event relationship, nor does the absence of a statistically significant result necessarily disprove a

possible ADR [see (Cutroneo et al., 2024; Fusaroli et al., 2024b) for a thorough discussion about bias in DA and possible approaches to partly address them].

DAs cannot be used as a standalone approach to provide clinical recommendations such as direct safety comparisons between drugs (Michel et al., 2017; Raschi et al., 2018). The SDRs generated by a DA should be complemented by a careful case-by-case analysis as the first step within the signal management process, and require further thorough evaluation through comprehensive assessments involving an in-depth examination of biological plausibility, safety data from other drugs in the same class, information from available clinical trials and pharmacoepidemiologic studies, preclinical data, and the application of causality frameworks to substantiate and clarify any causal relationships (Hammad et al., 2023). The hypotheses generated by a DA frequently requires evaluation through analytical pharmaco-epidemiological approaches, including case-control or cohort studies, which do allow risk assessment (Cutroneo et al., 2024).

2 Disproportionality analysis: A “trendy” study design in the recent literature

In recent years, we have witnessed an exponential increase in the number of publications on DAs (Wang et al., 2021), with articles

growing at an almost exponential rate from the year 2017 onwards (Loke et al., 2024). These published DAs came mostly from academia (Sartori et al., 2023), with a considerable interest from “clinical Journals”, notably in the field of oncology (Raschi et al., 2020; Sa et al., 2023).

Multiple reasons can be identified behind this publication trend, including: 1) the virtuous initiatives of regulators to allow public access to ICSRs databases through both raw data and online interfaces (e.g., the Food and Drug Administration Adverse Event Reporting System public dashboard and Vigiaccess); 2) the widespread availability of online user-friendly tools for quick database queries, though often lacking transparency in preprocessing and limiting in-depth custom analyses (Giunchi et al., 2023); 3) the ease of data access and the lack of formal ethics approval requirements due to data anonymization; 4) the lack (up to now) of rigorous reporting practices specifically tailored to DA.

On one hand, this surge in the number of published DAs denotes an increased awareness on the importance of post-marketing surveillance for drug safety; on the other hand, this trend poses challenges and significant burden to various stakeholders, including pharmaceutical companies (scanning the literature as part of pharmacovigilance requirements), regulators and policymakers (possibly using results from DAs to drive regulatory measures), researchers (deciding whether an SDR needs evaluation through additional observational research), and clinicians (potentially adopting DA-driven clinical decisions in their everyday practice).

3 Background to the READUS-PV guideline: a critical literature appraisal

Over the years, a general skepticism has emerged on the role and usefulness of DAs. Due to the unique nature of ICSRs and their traditional use being limited to hypothesis generation, there has been little academic focus on refining the study design of DAs. In 2011, the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* raised the debate on the benefits of publishing results of DAs in medical journals (de Boer, 2011; Montastruc et al., 2011). Later, the terms “apophenia” and “pharmacovigilance syndrome” have been coined, namely, the incorrect perception and interpretation of statistically significant disproportionality to infer causal association (Gagne, 2014; Greenblatt, 2015). All these aspects might explain, at least partially, why the vast majority of SDRs remains unnoticed by researchers and are not corroborated by subsequent published research (Dhodapkar et al., 2022; Loke et al., 2024). At the same time, they might generate unjustified alarms among clinicians, as exemplified by the case of pancreatitis with GLP-1 receptor agonists (Moore, 2011). In the following paragraphs, we will discuss three main challenges when performing DAs: implementation, documentation, and interpretation.

Performing an exhaustive DA study requires not only calculating an association, but rather implementing a series of steps to provide a first assessment of the SDR and enhance its validity. Implementing these steps—defining the hypothesis within existing knowledge, designing a methodologically robust study with justified strategies (possibly integrating case-by-case and complementary analyses), and interpreting results in context—can involve extremely heterogeneous approaches, potentially leading to various outcomes (Fusaroli et al., 2023). Although the IMI PROTECT project provided a set of

39 pragmatic recommendations that can be used as a guideline for implementing signal detection using DAs (Wisniewski et al., 2016), there are still a number of challenges and unsettled research issues towards proper integration of DA into the wider pharmacovigilance landscape (Fusaroli et al., 2024c). For example, the selection of the most suitable comparator remains a significant challenge (Gravel and Douros, 2023; Gravel et al., 2024), even if efforts have been made to develop a system that helps predict and address biases in DAs under certain assumptions (Fusaroli et al., 2024b). Other considerations concern the lack of an *a priori* power calculation for routine DAs employed in signal detection, the absence of pre-specification of analyses in protocols (hence the likely production of overlapping research), and the inflation of the risk of false-positive findings from multiple statistical comparisons (Gaucher et al., 2023; Naudet et al., 2024).

Documenting a DA (namely, full transparency on how the study was performed and justification of methodological choices) is challenging, in the absence of a guideline. Recently, a meta-research study questioned the reproducibility of DAs, with over 75% of published DAs failing to report essential elements needed to understand and replicate the analyses and results, including the thresholds for SDR definition and the comparator (Khouri et al., 2021b).

Finally, interpreting DAs is also a challenge. A meta-research study estimated that over 66% of published DAs over-interpreted their findings, the so-called “spin”, in the form of: a) claiming for causality without addressing potential biases, b) calculating incidence and risk assessment based on ICSRs alone, and c) providing unjustified clinical recommendations (Mouffak et al., 2021; Khouri et al., 2023). A potential explanation for this misinterpretation lies in the fact that, although case/non-case approaches resemble case-control designs, they differ in the type of data they use and the biases that affect them. Some meta-research studies found a “significant correlation” between relative risks from pharmacoepidemiologic studies or meta-analyses of clinical trials and estimates from DAs, advocating for DAs as a possible early indicator of an ADR’s potential clinical importance (Maciá-Martínez et al., 2016; Beau-Lejdstrom et al., 2019). However, these correlations tend to be inflated, particularly when biases are not addressed, and vary greatly depending on the drug and ADR type (Khouri et al., 2021a). Therefore, it is strongly advised not to use disproportionality measures *per se* as a risk measure (Khouri et al., 2023), nor to combine them with other data in safety meta-analysis without further considerations (Raschi et al., 2016; Fusaroli et al., 2024a).

In this intricate scenario, in which implementation, documentation and interpretation of DAs are often of poor quality, the credibility of DAs has been progressively undermined, and we recently called for a concerted effort to harmonize the conception, design and reporting of DAs (Raschi et al., 2022).

4 Creation, development, and overview of the READUS-PV guideline

The REporting of A Disproportionality analysis for drUg Safety signal detection using individual case safety reports in Pharmacovigilance [READUS-PV] guideline is the first aid for reporting the results of DAs in articles and abstracts (Fusaroli et al., 2024d; Fusaroli et al., 2024e). As a matter of fact, ICSRs

have unique features that cannot be adequately captured by existing reporting guidelines for observational and pharmaco-epidemiological studies such as STROBE and RECORD-PE. Only preliminary proposals were previously provided towards minimum reporting requirements, although in the form of discussion and mainly focused on specific ADRs such as liver injury (Raschi et al., 2018; 2023). Importantly, READUS-PV guideline does not provide recommendations to conduct DAs and should be viewed in conjunction with the previous IMI PROTECT project (Wisniewski et al., 2016), and other methodological considerations by Regulators (European Medicines Agency, 2017), with the unsettled issues discussed in the previous section.

The READUS-PV guideline is the result of a worldwide interprofessional collaboration. Through an open-text survey followed by a modified Delphi process, 34 pharmacovigilance experts from academia, drug companies and regulatory agencies reached a consensus on a checklist of 14 items (plus four additional items for the abstract) recommended for consideration when reporting a DA. A glossary of terms is also consistently provided throughout the READUS-PV guideline to avoid misunderstanding, in particular, the distinction between SDR [a statistical association between medicinal product(s) and event(s) identified by any disproportionality analysis within an ICSR database] and safety signal [information that arises from one or multiple sources, including observations and experiments, which suggests a new potentially causal association or a new aspect of a known association between medicinal product(s) and adverse event(s)]. The Panel agreed on the idea that a mere DA—e.g., not contextualized within the existing knowledge and not integrated with a case-by-case analysis—is of poor value to the scientific and regulatory community.

The READUS-PV checklists can be downloaded in the relevant website (<https://readus-statement.org/>) and in the Equator network website (<https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/the-reporting-of-a-disproportionality-analysis-for-drug-safety-signal-detection-using-individual-case-safety-reports-in-pharmacovigilance-readus-pv-development-and-statement/>), and can potentially be compiled and submitted together with the manuscript to simplify the retrieval of information (Fusaroli et al., 2024d). An extensive explanation of how the items could be reported, together with essential elements and examples of good reporting, is provided in a companion article (Fusaroli et al., 2024e). These examples have been created using ChatGPT 3.5, using the description of the item as a prompt, with appropriate changes to comply with the READUS-PV guideline and based on authors' experience.

Briefly, the 14 items comprehensively cover all essential reporting aspects. The *title* should clearly identify the type of data and archive. The *background* and aim should make explicit the rationale underlying the implementation of a DA, including the explanation of how a DA can fill the knowledge gap as compared to existing evidence. The *methods* should define the study population, justify all the operative choices for data pre-processing and analysis [e.g., the definition of “cases”, the selection of “non cases” (comparator), grounding any sensitivity analysis on expected biases], and specify whether and how a case-by-case evaluation was performed. All *results* should be presented, also considering a flow diagram, supporting an independent interpretation by the reader. In the *discussion*, after presenting a summary of key results contextualized within the existing literature, external validity and relevance for clinical practice and research implications should be clearly presented, together with both general and specific limitations,

including efforts to mitigate confounding and reporting biases. This would support the reader (researchers and healthcare professionals) into careful interpretation of relevant results. Finally, the declarations should include a statement on data/code availability (including the version of the statistical software used), and if applicable the protocol registration number.

5 The READUS-PV guideline: expected benefits and the way forward

We are confident that the adoption of the READUS-PV guideline will provide undisputable advantages for pharmacovigilance stakeholders (Table 1), including researchers, regulators, and reviewers, improving reproducibility and interpretability of DAs (Raschi et al., 2024). Although READUS-PV recommendations should not be considered as a tool to explicitly assess the overall accuracy and validity of published DAs, their adoption can indirectly improve the quality of research by pointing to items that should be addressed during study design, as demonstrated in other fields (Dewey et al., 2019). Ideally, they should be applied to any study employing a disproportionality approach (alone or integrated on more complex study designs) on ICSRs collected within local, regional, national or international databases (of drugs, vaccines, medical devices, food supplements).

We recognize several challenges in achieving widespread, high-quality reporting of DAs (Supplementary Material). The READUS-PV guideline represents the very first step towards this goal. Achieving this goal requires maintaining an ongoing, constructive dialogue among academia, pharmaceutical companies, regulatory agencies, scientific societies, and scientific journals. The endorsement by Pharmacology Journals dealing with pharmacovigilance and publishing a high volume of DAs is particularly important.

The next 3 years are crucial to fully implement the READUS-PV guideline and appreciate its impact on the scientific community and public health. The actual adherence and effectiveness (increased reporting completeness) will be evaluated by dedicated meta-epidemiological research. With time, they will allow a transparent, reproducible pharmacovigilance research, thus reaffirming the role of DA among other irreplaceable post-marketing research tools.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Author contributions

MF: Conceptualization, Writing—review and editing. FS: Conceptualization, Writing—review and editing. CK: Conceptualization, Writing—review and editing. ER: Conceptualization, Writing—review and editing, Writing—original draft.

Funding

The author(s) declare that no financial support was received for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to the READUS-PV Working Committee. Members are listed in the relevant website (<https://readus-statement.org/readus-group/>).

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

References

- Bate, A., and Evans, S. J. W. (2009). Quantitative signal detection using spontaneous ADR reporting. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf.* 18, 427–436. doi:10.1002/pds.1742
- Bate, A., Lindquist, M., Edwards, I. R., Olsson, S., Orre, R., Lansner, A., et al. (1998). A Bayesian neural network method for adverse drug reaction signal generation. *Eur. J. Clin. Pharmacol.* 54, 315–321. doi:10.1007/s002280050466
- Beau-Lejdstrom, R., Crook, S., Spanu, A., Yu, T., and Puhan, M. A. (2019). Adverse drug reaction risk measures: a comparison of estimates from drug surveillance and randomised trials. *Pharm. Med.* 33, 331–339. doi:10.1007/s40290-019-00287-y
- Croteau, D., Pinnow, E., Wu, E., Muñoz, M., Bulatao, I., and Dal Pan, G. (2022). Sources of evidence triggering and supporting safety-related labeling changes: a 10-year longitudinal assessment of 22 new molecular entities approved in 2008 by the us food and drug administration. *Drug Saf.* 45, 169–180. doi:10.1007/s40264-021-01142-3
- Cutroneo, P. M., Sartori, D., Tuccori, M., Crisafulli, S., Battini, V., Carnovale, C., et al. (2024). Conducting and interpreting disproportionality analyses derived from spontaneous reporting systems. *Front. Drug Saf. Regul.* 3. doi:10.3389/fdsfr.2023.1323057
- de Boer, A. (2011). When to publish measures of disproportionality derived from spontaneous reporting databases? *Br. J. Clin. Pharmacol.* 72, 909–911. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2125.2011.04087.x
- Dewey, M., Levine, D., Bossuyt, P. M., and Kressel, H. Y. (2019). Impact and perceived value of journal reporting guidelines among Radiology authors and reviewers. *Eur. Radiol.* 29, 3986–3995. doi:10.1007/s00330-018-5980-3
- Dhodapkar, M. M., Shi, X., Ramachandran, R., Chen, E. M., Wallach, J. D., and Ross, J. S. (2022). Characterization and corroboration of safety signals identified from the US food and drug administration adverse event reporting system, 2008–19: cross sectional study. *BMJ* 379, e071752. doi:10.1136/bmj-2022-071752
- Ding, Y., Markatou, M., and Ball, R. (2020). An evaluation of statistical approaches to postmarketing surveillance. *Stat. Med.* 39, 845–874. doi:10.1002/sim.8447
- European Medicines Agency (2017). Guideline on good pharmacovigilance practices (GVP) Module IX Addendum I – methodological aspects of signal detection from spontaneous reports of suspected adverse reactions.
- Fusaroli, M., Khouri, C., Poluzzi, E., De Ponti, F., Salvo, F., and Raschi, E. (2024a). Meta-analyzing results from disproportionality analysis of individual case safety reports: a note of caution. *J. Clin. Psychopharmacol.* 44, 443–444. doi:10.1097/JCP.0000000000001881
- Fusaroli, M., Mitchell, J., Rudolph, A., Rocca, E., and Fusaroli, R. (2024b). Causal inference tools for pharmacovigilance: using causal graphs to identify and address biases in disproportionality analysis. doi:10.31219/osf.io/h5w9u
- Fusaroli, M., Raschi, E., Poluzzi, E., and Hauben, M. (2024c). The evolving role of disproportionality analysis in pharmacovigilance. *Expert Opin. Drug Saf.* 23, 981–994. doi:10.1080/14740338.2024.2368817
- Fusaroli, M., Salvo, F., Begaud, B., AlShammari, T. M., Bate, A., Battini, V., et al. (2024d). The reporting of a disproportionality analysis for drug safety signal detection using individual case safety reports in Pharmacovigilance (READUS-PV): development and statement. *Drug Saf.* 47, 575–584. doi:10.1007/s40264-024-01421-9
- Fusaroli, M., Salvo, F., Begaud, B., AlShammari, T. M., Bate, A., Battini, V., et al. (2024e). The REporting of A disproportionality analysis for DrUG safety signal detection using individual case safety reports in Pharmacovigilance (READUS-PV): explanation and elaboration. *Drug Saf.* 47, 585–599. doi:10.1007/s40264-024-01423-7
- Fusaroli, M., Salvo, F., Bernardeau, C., Idris, M., Dolladille, C., Pariente, A., et al. (2023). Mapping strategies to assess and increase the validity of published disproportionality signals: a meta-research study. *Drug Saf.* 46, 857–866. doi:10.1007/s40264-023-01329-w
- Gagne, J. J. (2014). Finding meaningful patterns in adverse drug event reports. *JAMA Intern Med.* 174, 1934–1935. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.3270
- Gaucher, L., Sabatier, P., Katsahian, S., and Jannot, A.-S. (2023). Pharmacovigilance studies without a *priori* hypothesis: systematic review highlights inappropriate multiple testing correction procedures. *J. Clin. Epidemiol.* 162, 127–134. doi:10.1016/j.jclinepi.2023.08.010
- Giunchi, V., Fusaroli, M., Hauben, M., Raschi, E., and Poluzzi, E. (2023). Challenges and Opportunities in accessing and analysing FAERS data: a call towards a collaborative approach. *Drug Saf.* 46, 921–926. doi:10.1007/s40264-023-01345-w
- Gravel, C. A., Bai, W., and Douros, A. (2024). Comparators in pharmacovigilance: a quasi-quantification bias analysis. *Drug Saf.* 47, 809–819. doi:10.1007/s40264-024-01433-5
- Gravel, C. A., and Douros, A. (2023). Considerations on the use of different comparators in pharmacovigilance: a methodological review. *Br. J. Clin. Pharmacol.* 89, 2671–2676. doi:10.1111/bcp.15802
- Greenblatt, D. J. (2015). The pharmacovigilance syndrome. *J. Clin. Psychopharmacol.* 35, 361–363. doi:10.1097/JCP.0000000000000367
- Hammad, T. A., Afsar, S., McAvoy, L. B., and Le Louet, H. (2023). Aspects to consider in causality assessment of safety signals: broadening the thought process. *Front. Drug Saf. Regul.* 3. doi:10.3389/fdsfr.2023.1193413
- Jiao, X.-F., Pu, L., Lan, S., Li, H., Zeng, L., Wang, H., et al. (2024). Adverse drug reaction signal detection methods in spontaneous reporting system: a systematic review. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf.* 33, e5768. doi:10.1002/pds.5768
- Khouri, C., Fusaroli, M., Salvo, F., and Raschi, E. (2023). Interpretation of pharmacovigilance disproportionality analyses. *Clin. Pharmacol. Ther.* 114, 745–746. doi:10.1002/cpt.2951
- Khouri, C., Petit, C., Tod, M., Lepelley, M., Revol, B., Roustit, M., et al. (2021a). Adverse drug reaction risks obtained from meta-analyses and pharmacovigilance disproportionality analyses are correlated in most cases. *J. Clin. Epidemiol.* 134, 14–21. doi:10.1016/j.jclinepi.2021.01.015
- Khouri, C., Revol, B., Lepelley, M., Mouffak, A., Bernardeau, C., Salvo, F., et al. (2021b). A meta-epidemiological study found lack of transparency and poor reporting of disproportionality analyses for signal detection in pharmacovigilance databases. *J. Clin. Epidemiol.* 139, 191–198. doi:10.1016/j.jclinepi.2021.07.014
- Loke, Y. K., Mattishent, K., and Navaneetharaja, N. (2024). New adverse drug reaction signals from 2017 to 2021-genuine alerts or false alarms? *Pharm. (Basel)* 12, 33. doi:10.3390/pharmacy12010033

The author ER declared that he was an editorial board member of *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, at the time of submission. This had no impact on the peer review process and the final decision.

Publisher's note

All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

Supplementary material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fphar.2024.1488725/full#supplementary-material>

- Maciá-Martínez, M.-A., de Abajo, F. J., Roberts, G., Slattery, J., Thakrar, B., and Wisniewski, A. F. Z. (2016). An empirical approach to explore the relationship between measures of disproportionate reporting and relative risks from analytical studies. *Drug Saf.* 39, 29–43. doi:10.1007/s40264-015-0351-3
- Michel, C., Scosyrev, E., Petrin, M., and Schmouder, R. (2017). Can disproportionality analysis of post-marketing case reports be used for comparison of drug safety profiles? *Clin. Drug Investig.* 37, 415–422. doi:10.1007/s40261-017-0503-6
- Montastruc, J.-L., Sommet, A., Bagheri, H., and Lapeyre-Mestre, M. (2011). Benefits and strengths of the disproportionality analysis for identification of adverse drug reactions in a pharmacovigilance database. *Br. J. Clin. Pharmacol.* 72, 905–908. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2125.2011.04037.x
- Moore, N. (2011). Journal's withdrawal of article. Paper OK, title wrong. *BMJ* 342, d2732. doi:10.1136/bmj.d2732
- Moore, N., Krefte-Jais, C., Haramburu, F., Noblet, C., Andrejak, M., Ollagnier, M., et al. (1997). Reports of hypoglycaemia associated with the use of ACE inhibitors and other drugs: a case/non-case study in the French pharmacovigilance system database. *Br. J. Clin. Pharmacol.* 44, 513–518. doi:10.1046/j.1365-2125.1997.00615.x
- Mouffak, A., Lepelletier, M., Revol, B., Bernardeau, C., Salvo, F., Pariente, A., et al. (2021). High prevalence of spin was found in pharmacovigilance studies using disproportionality analyses to detect safety signals: a meta-epidemiological study. *J. Clin. Epidemiol.* 138, 73–79. doi:10.1016/j.jclinepi.2021.06.022
- Naudet, F., Patel, C. J., DeVito, N. J., Le Goff, G., Cristea, I. A., Braillon, A., et al. (2024). Improving the transparency and reliability of observational studies through registration. *BMJ* 384, e076123. doi:10.1136/bmj-2023-076123
- Raschi, E., Gatti, M., Gelsomino, F., Ardizzoni, A., Poluzzi, E., and De Ponti, F. (2020). Lessons to be learnt from real-world studies on immune-related adverse events with checkpoint inhibitors: a clinical perspective from pharmacovigilance. *Target Oncol.* 15, 449–466. doi:10.1007/s11523-020-00738-6
- Raschi, E., Poluzzi, E., Salvo, F., Pariente, A., De Ponti, F., Marchesini, G., et al. (2018). Pharmacovigilance of sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitors: what a clinician should know on disproportionality analysis of spontaneous reporting systems. *Nutr. Metab. Cardiovasc. Dis.* 28, 533–542. doi:10.1016/j.numecd.2018.02.014
- Raschi, E., Salvo, F., Bate, A., De Ponti, F., Poluzzi, E., Tuccori, M., et al. (2024). Peer review in pharmacovigilance: lens on disproportionality analysis. *Drug Saf.* 47, 601–605. doi:10.1007/s40264-024-01419-3
- Raschi, E., Salvo, F., and Khouri, C. (2022). Conceiving, conducting, reporting, interpreting, and publishing disproportionality analyses: a call to action. *Br. J. Clin. Pharmacol.* 88, 3535–3536. doi:10.1111/bcp.15269
- Raschi, E., Salvo, F., Poluzzi, E., and De Ponti, F. (2016). Safety meta-analysis: a call for appropriate use of disproportionality measures from spontaneous reporting systems. *J. Am. Coll. Cardiol.* 67, 2193. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2016.01.082
- Raschi, E., Schoretsanitis, G., Gastaldon, C., Khouri, C., Salvo, F., and De Ponti, F. (2023). Antipsychotics and drug-induced liver injury: toward minimum requirements in reporting pharmacovigilance studies. *J. Clin. Psychopharmacol.* 43, 81–83. doi:10.1097/JCP.0000000000001647
- Sa, R., Xu, Y., Pan, X., Wang, Y., Lin, Z., Zhang, X., et al. (2023). A bibliometric analysis of research progress on pharmacovigilance and cancer from 2002 to 2021. *Front. Oncol.* 13, 1078254. doi:10.3389/fonc.2023.1078254
- Sartori, D., Aronson, J. K., Norén, G. N., and Onakpoya, I. J. (2023). Signals of adverse drug reactions communicated by pharmacovigilance stakeholders: a scoping review of the global literature. *Drug Saf.* 46, 109–120. doi:10.1007/s40264-022-01258-0
- Stricker, B. H., and Tijssen, J. G. (1992). Serum sickness-like reactions to cefaclor. *J. Clin. Epidemiol.* 45, 1177–1184. doi:10.1016/0895-4356(92)90158-j
- Tau, N., Shochat, T., Gafter-Gvili, A., Tibau, A., Amir, E., and Shepshelovich, D. (2019). Association between data sources and US food and drug administration drug safety communications. *JAMA Intern Med.* 179, 1590–1592. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2019.3066
- van Puijenbroek, E. P., Bate, A., Leufkens, H. G. M., Lindquist, M., Orre, R., and Egberts, A. C. G. (2002). A comparison of measures of disproportionality for signal detection in spontaneous reporting systems for adverse drug reactions. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf.* 11, 3–10. doi:10.1002/pds.668
- Wang, L., Feng, W., Duan, J., and Liang, J. (2021). Pharmacovigilance bibliometrics: visualizing thematic development in the category of Pharmacology and pharmacy in web of science. *Front. Pharmacol.* 12, 731757. doi:10.3389/fphar.2021.731757
- Wisniewski, A. F. Z., Bate, A., Bousquet, C., Brueckner, A., Candore, G., Juhlin, K., et al. (2016). Good signal detection practices: evidence from IMI PROTECT. *Drug Saf.* 39, 469–490. doi:10.1007/s40264-016-0405-1