

Table 1 Demographic characteristics, prescribing pattern, and first line therapeutic approach of the cohort of 18,504 incident antihypertensive users

	Total Cohort 18,504 N (%)
Male	8,297 (44.8)
Age group	
< 40 years	1,667 (9.0)
40 – 49 years	3,554 (19.2)
50 – 59 years	4,794 (25.9)
60 – 69 years	4,259 (23.0)
70 – 79 years	2,731 (14.8)
≥ 80 years	1,499 (8.1)
Blood pressure (Mean ± DS)	
Systolic blood pressure	87±11.1
Diastolic blood pressure	143±18.7
Comedications	
Antidiabetics (ATC: A10)	1,881 (10.2)
Antihyperlipidemics (ATC: C10)	4,474 (24.2)
Antiplatelets (ATC: B01AC)	4,027 (21.8)
Cardiovascular disease	
Acute Myocardial Infarction (IMA)	869 (4.7)
Congestive heart failure	105 (0.6)
Cerebrovascular disease	620 (3.4)
First line therapeutic approach	
Monotherapy	12,404 (67.0)
ACE inhibitors	3,897 (31.4%)
Beta blockers	3,203 (25.8%)
Diuretics	2,243 (18.1%)
ARBs	1,985 (16.0%)
CCBs	1,076 (8.7%)
Combination therapy	6,100 (33.0)
Free combinations	1,642 (26.9%)
Fixed dose combinations	3,659 (60.0%)
Multiple mix	799 (13.1%)
Prescription patterns	
Continuers	3,578 (19.3)
Add – on	1,596 (8.6)
Switchers	3,740 (20.2)
Discontinuers	9,590 (51.8)

Table 2 Variables that influence the incidence rate of non-persistence to antihypertensive drugs

Characteristics	Unadjusted HR (95% CI)	p-value	Adjusted HR (95% CI)	p-value
Sex				
Female	Reference			
Male	0.85 (0.82-0.90)	<0.001	0.86 (0.83-0.90)	<0.001
Age-group				
< 40 years	Reference			
40-49 years	0.70 (0.65-0.76)	<0.001	0.74 (0.69-0.80)	<0.001
50-59 years	0.64 (0.60-0.69)	<0.001	0.71 (0.66-0.76)	<0.001
60-69 years	0.54 (0.51-0.58)	<0.001	0.64 (0.59-0.69)	<0.001
70-79 years	0.49 (0.46-0.54)	<0.001	0.62 (0.57-0.67)	<0.001
≥80 years	0.52 (0.48-0.58)	<0.001	0.68 (0.62-0.75)	<0.001
Drug Therapy				
Monotherapy	Reference			
Free combination	0.67 (0.62-0.73)	<0.001	0.83 (0.77-0.90)	<0.001
Fixed combination	0.58 (0.54-0.61)	<0.001	0.57 (0.54-0.61)	<0.001
Comedications				
Antidiabetics				
No	Reference			
Yes	0.70 (0.65-0.76)	<0.001	0.89 (0.83-0.97)	0.004
Anthyperlipidemics				
No	Reference			
Yes	0.65 (0.62-0.68)	<0.001	0.83 (0.78-0.88)	<0.001
Antiplatelets				
No	Reference			
Yes	0.58 (0.55-0.61)	<0.001	0.75 (0.71-0.80)	<0.001
Acute Myocardial Infarction				
No	Reference			
Yes	0.43 (0.38-0.49)	<0.001	0.63 (0.55-0.72)	<0.001
Cerebrovascular disease				
No	Reference			
Yes	0.50 (0.43-0.58)	<0.001	0.67 (0.57-0.78)	<0.001
Congestive Heart Failure				
No	Reference			
Yes	0.41 (0.28-0.60)		0.52 (0.35-0.76)	0.001

* Adjusted for all covariates.

Appendix 1 Free and fixed combination – Definition

ATC	Description
Fixed combination 1 drug belonging to following ATC group	
C09BA	ACE Inhibitors And Diuretics
C09BB	ACE Inhibitors And Calcium Channel Blockers
C09DA	Angiotensin II Antagonists And Diuretics
C09DB	Angiotensin II Antagonists And Calcium Channel Blockers
C07BB	Beta blocking agents, selective, and thiazides
C07CB	Beta blocking agents, selective, and other diuretics
C07FB	Beta blocking agents and calcium channel blockers
Free combination \geq 2 different drugs belonging to following ATC group	
C03	Diuretics
C07	Beta Blocking Agents
C08	Calcium Channel Beta Blockers
C09AA	ACE Inhibitors, Plain
C09CA	Angiotensin II Antagonists, Plain