ACS Chemical Neuroscience

Editorial

pubs.acs.org/chemneuro

2014 Global Prescription Medication Statistics: Strong Growth and CNS Well Represented

The IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics just released top-line market data for 2014 global prescription medications, and we will detail the incredibly positive trends and statistics. Global sales on prescription medication increased from $879.6 billion in 2013 to $936.5 billion in 2014, an impressive 8.8% growth.[1] The top 20 prescription drugs in terms of global sales (Table 1) are notably different from those of 2013,[2,3] and the top 10 are equally divided between small molecules (Sovaldi, Abilify, Seretide, Crestor, and Nexium) and biologics (Humira, Lantus, Enbrel, Remicade, and MabThera). The antipsychotic Abilify witnessed an impressive 19.2% increase in sales in 2014 (from $7.8 billion in 2013 to $9.2 billion in 2014); however, the HCV curative agent, Sovaldi, generated an unprecedented 19 262% growth in 2014, increasing sales from $70 million in 2013 to $9.3 billion in 2014![1] Overall, the world population enabled "blockbuster" (sales > $1 billion) status for over 40 drugs in 2014.[1]

Table 1. Top 20 Global Prescription Drugs in 2014 in Terms of Sales[1]

rank	product	sales (US $Bn)
1	Humira	11.8
2	Lantus	10.3
3	Sovaldi	9.3
4	Abilify	9.2
5	Enbrel	8.7
6	Seretide	8.6
7	Crestor	8.4
8	Remicade	8.1
9	Nexium	7.6
10	MabThera	6.5
11	Avastin	6.1
12	Lyrica	6.0
13	Herceptin	5.5
14	Spiriva	5.4
15	Januvia	4.9
16	Copaxone	4.8
17	Novorapid	4.7
18	Neulasta	4.6
19	Symbicort	4.5
20	Lucentis	4.4

The year 2014 also noted more uniform expenses globally across therapy areas than in the United States last year (Table 2); however, the top therapy areas once again did not correlate with the top prescription drugs in terms of sales.[1−3] In 2014, the top five therapy areas were oncology ($74.4 billion), antidiabetes ($63.5 billion), pain ($59.7 billion), antihypertensives ($47.5 billion), and antibacterials ($40.2 billion).[1] The 12.2% increase in oncology sales was driven by specialty products with large price tags, and the largest spending growth was noted for viral hepatitis (212.6%), due to a full year of Sovaldi sales. Clearly, 2014 was the year for Sovaldi and viral hepatitis with tremendous growth and market penetration not witnessed since the statins first launched.[1,4] Other notable therapy areas with growth included autoimmune diseases (17.5%, driven by new multiple sclerosis treatments), antidiabetics (18%), and anticoagulants (12.5%).[1] While not holding leading positions, multiple CNS entries also showed sustained growth: nervous system disorders (11.7%), other CNS (5.5%), and mental health (0.6%).

Table 2. Top 20 Global Therapy Areas in 2014 in Terms of Sales[1]

rank	therapy area	sales (US $Bn)	% growth
1	oncology	74.4	12.2
2	antidiabetes	63.5	18.0
3	pain	59.7	6.5
4	antihypertensives	47.5	−1.2
5	antibacterials	18.7	0.8
6	respiratory agents	40.2	5.6
7	mental health	39.5	0.6
8	autoimmune disorders	39.1	17.5
9	lipid regulators	35.9	0.2
10	dermatologics	28.2	9.5
11	anticoagulants	26.6	12.5
12	GI products	25.1	9.9
13	antiulcerants	24.8	−1.1
14	HIV antivirals	22.66	10.9
15	other cardiovascular	22.62	9.3
16	nervous system disorders	22.1	11.7
17	other CNS	19.6	5.5
18	viral hepatitis	18.1	212.6
19	Kanpo, Chinese medicines	16.1	9.5
20	vaccines	15.1	8.4

The top 10 global pharmaceutical corporations in 2014 in terms of sales (Table 3) was virtually identical to the 2013 rankings, with the exception of Gilead Sciences, seizing the tenth position with 114% sales growth, again due to Sovaldi,

Table 3. Top 10 Global Pharmaceutical Corporations in 2014[1]

rank	company	sales (US $Bn)	2014 growth (%)
1	Novartis	51.3	3.7
2	Pfizer	44.9	3.6
3	Sanofi	40.0	8.1
4	Roche	37.6	4.9
5	Merck & Co.	36.5	3.9
6	Johnson & Johnson	36.4	20.9
7	AstraZeneca	33.3	4.0
8	GlaxoSmithKline	31.4	−0.3
9	Teva	26.0	8.6
10	Gilead Sciences	23.6	114.8

Published: April 15, 2015

DOI: 10.1021/acschemneuro.5b00098
ACS Chem. Neurosci. 2015, 6, 505−506

and displacing Lilly (now #12 with −13.3% sales growth).[1] While the majority of the top corporations displayed modest growth in 2014 (3−5%), in comparison to the global market increase of 8.8%, notable exceptions include Johnson & Johnson (20.9% growth), Sanofi (8.1% growth), and Teva (8.6% growth), and GlaxoSmithKline witnessed a loss (−0.3% growth). Though not in the top 10, Bayer increased sales 8.1% ($18.3 billion), Novo Nordisk was up 17% ($16.8 billion in sales), and Otsuka was up 14.1% ($12.2 billion in sales).

Again, 2014 was a great year for global pharmaceutical sales ($936.5 billion), and Sovaldi, the hepatitis C cure, had a tremendous year in terms of sales (and % growth) and in catapulting Gilead Sciences into the top 10 pharmaceutical corporations. CNS therapeutics also did exceptionally well, with number 4 ranked Abilify garnering $9.2 billion in sales, and four CNS therapy areas placing in the global top 20. Despite the constant downsizing and layoffs across the industry, there does appear to be an upward trend in terms of sales growth−can a global resurgence in R&D be not too far behind?

Craig W. Lindsley, Editor-in-Chief

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

■ REFERENCES

(1) IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics. See www.imshealth.com.

(2) Lindsley, C. W. (2014) 2013 Statistics for Global Prescription Medications: CNS Therapeutics Maintain a Leading Position among Small Molecule Therapeutics. *ACS Chem. Neurosci.* 5, 250−251.

(3) Aitken, M.; Kleinrock, M.; Lyle, J.; Caskey, L. (2014) Medicine use and the shifting cost of healthcare. A Review of the use of medicines in the United States in 2013, IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics, www.theimsinstitute.org.

(4) Bolinger, J. D., and Lindsley, C. W. (2007) The most prescribed and top selling drugs of 2006: generics, biologics and, of course, Lipitor. *Curr. Top. Med.Chem.* 7, 1643.

DOI: 10.1021/acschemneuro.5b00098
ACS Chem. Neurosci. 2015, 6, 505−506