

Zoloft Adverse Drug Events: Twitter versus FAERS Data

Sarah Burgan, Nicolette De Micco, Alison Kiley, Abigail Rector, Lucy Schenkel

TWITTER VS FAERS

INTRODUCTION

We chose to use Zoloft because there were multiple adverse effects on both Twitter and within the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System. 300 tweets were randomly collected as a sample on 10/20/16 with tweets ranging from 09/04/16 to 10/17/16.

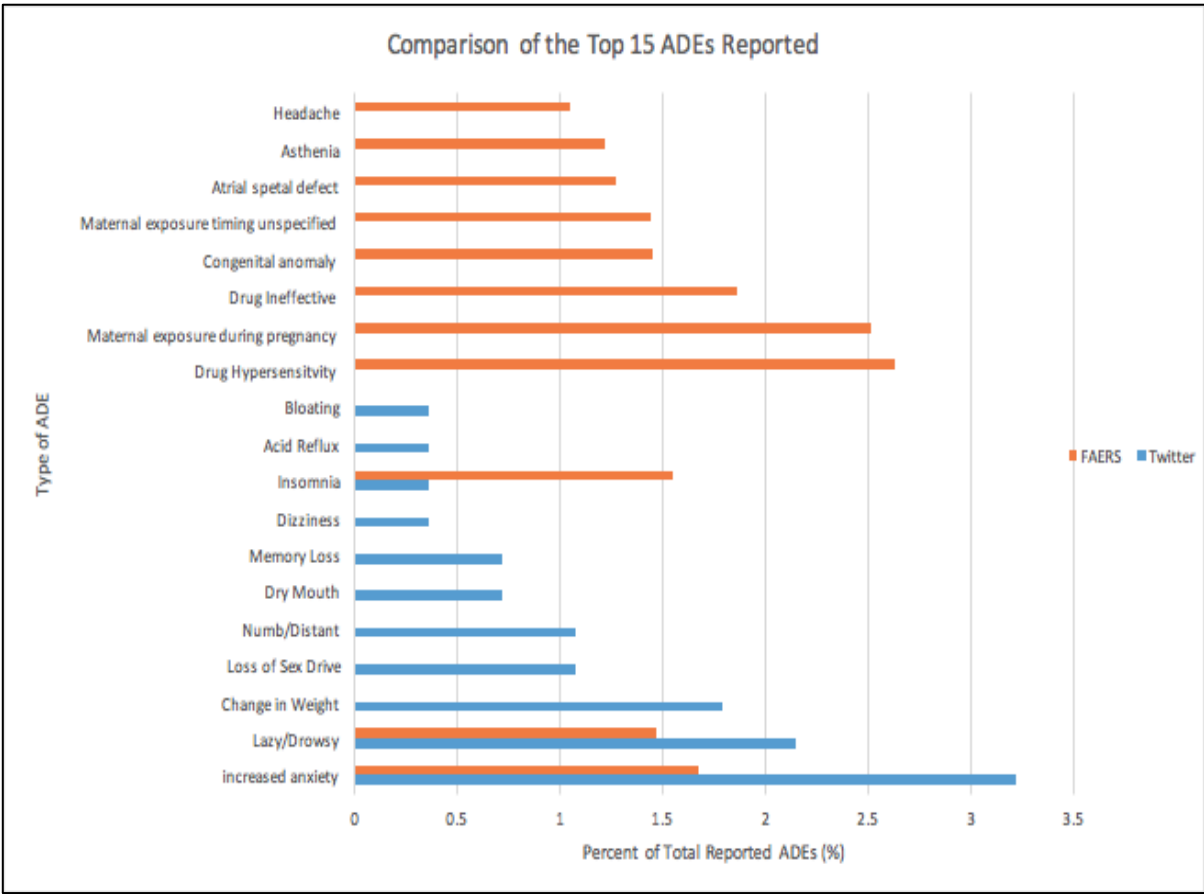
TWITTER DATA

Analysis of Tweets:

- 30/300 tweets had at least one adverse event (10% of tweets)
- 34 Adverse events were reported
- One tweet had two adverse events, and one tweet had three adverse events.

Top 11 ADE's reported on Twitter

Event	# of Events
Increased Anxiety	9
Lazy/Drowsy	6
Change in Weight	5
Loss of Sex Drive	3
Numb/Distant	3
Dry Mouth	2
Memory Loss	2
Dizziness	1
Insomnia	1
Acid Reflux	1
Bloating	1



^This data was collected from the same date range of Sept 10-Oct 10, 2016.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our twitter data was inconsistent with the FAERS data. This could be due to our smaller sample size or our narrow window of time in which we drew our data from. We primarily used tweets from the past month or two; so using tweets from a wider time frame might obtain more accurate results. While our most common adverse effect of Zoloft was increased anxiety, the most common side effect according to the FAERS data was drug hypersensitivity.

FAERS DATA

The total number of entries on FAERS related to ADEs for Zoloft is 26,739.

Top 11 ADE's Reported on FAERS

Event	# of Events
Drug Hypersensitivity	701
Maternal exposure during pregnancy	670
Drug Ineffective	497
Anxiety	448
Insomnia	407
Fatigue	393
Congenital Anomaly	388
Maternal Exposure timing unspecified	385
Atrial Septal Defect	340
Asthenia	325
Headache	280