

Supplement

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Supplementary methods

Data sources

CPRD GOLD and Aurum are two databases of anonymized primary care records from the United Kingdom (UK). Collectively they contain records of more than 10 million currently registered patients covering more than 20% of the UK population.^{1,2} They hold data from two separate primary care software systems, EMIS (Aurum) and Vision (GOLD). These datasets have been widely used for non-interventional research and found to be broadly representative of the general population in terms of both age and sex.^{3,4}

Individuals from practices present in both databases were excluded from the GOLD cohort.

Covariates

Potential confounders were adjusted for in the cohort studies using stabilized inverse probability of treatment weights estimated using propensity scores fitted with logistic regression. The following potential confounders were included as covariates:

- **Demographic and lifestyle variables:** age, sex, socioeconomic deprivation, body mass index (BMI), smoking status, alcohol consumption, ethnicity
- Indicators of frailty and comorbidity in 6 months prior to baseline: number of hospital admissions, number of GP appointments
- **Ever prior comorbidities:** coronary heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, uncontrolled diabetes, cerebrovascular disease, dementia, HIV, chronic liver disease, chronic kidney disease, peripheral vascular disease, myocardial infarction, carotid disease, multiple sclerosis
- **Additional risk factors for hospitalization with AA/AD:** statin use in 6 months prior, ever prior aortic aneurysm
- **Additional risk factors for tendon rupture:** corticosteroid use in 6 months prior, ever prior rheumatoid arthritis

Code lists for the exposure, outcome and covariates are available online at LSHTM Data Compass: <https://doi.org/10.17037/DATA.00003243>.

Individuals with no recorded smoking status were categorized as not current smokers and those with no recorded alcohol consumption as not heavy drinkers. BMI and age were modelled with a restricted cubic spline.

Median (IQR) look-back periods for covariate assessment at first treatment episode were: in the GOLD cohort 14.0 (6.4-23.0) years for fluoroquinolone users and 13.5 (6.8-23.5) years for cephalosporin users; and in the Aurum cohort 13.4 (6.12-23.7) years for fluoroquinolone users and 12.5 (5.7-22.3) years for cephalosporin users.

Multiple imputation

Multiple imputation with 10 imputed datasets was applied to impute missing values of body mass index (BMI) and ethnicity. In multiple imputation models, BMI was imputed using predictive mean matching and ethnicity using multinomial logistic regression. All covariates were included in imputation models alongside an estimate of the baseline hazard using the Nelson-Aalen estimator.⁵

Secondary analyses

As a secondary analysis, subsequent treatment episodes after the first within the eligibility window were included. Separate treatment episodes were defined by prescriptions more than 60 days apart.

Sensitivity analyses

In the cohort studies to assess the robustness of results to missing data assumptions, a sensitivity analysis was conducted using a complete case approach where individuals with missing ethnicity or BMI were excluded. In a post-hoc analysis the hazard ratio was estimated adjusting for sex only to explore the relative contribution to confounding of this variable.

The robustness of the case-crossover studies to time window chosen was assessed in sensitivity analyses by varying the length of exposure risk periods to 30 or 90 rather than 60 days and increasing the interval between case and control period from 30 to 60 days.

To assess the sensitivity of results to extreme weights, propensity score trimming was implemented by trimming individuals below the 5th percentile of propensity scores among fluoroquinolone users and above the 95th percentile among cephalosporin users.⁶

Some individuals may have received prior fluoroquinolone or cephalosporin within the 60 days prior to first treatment episode if treatment initiation was shortly after eligibility. To assess the sensitivity of analysis to this we excluded any individuals with a cephalosporin or fluoroquinolone prescription within the 60 days prior.

References

1. CPRD Aurum June 2021.
2. CPRD GOLD October 2021 (Version 2021.10.001)
3. Wolf A, Dedman D, Campbell J, et al. Data resource profile: Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) Aurum. *Int J Epidemiol.* 2019;48(6):1740-1740g.
4. Herrett E, Gallagher AM, Bhaskaran K, et al. Data resource profile: clinical practice research datalink (CPRD). 2015;44(3):827-836.
5. White IR, Royston P. Imputing missing covariate values for the Cox model. *Statistics in medicine.* 2009;28(15):1982-1998.
6. Stürmer T, Webster-Clark M, Lund JL, et al. Propensity score weighting and trimming strategies for reducing variance and bias of treatment effect estimates: a simulation study. *American journal of epidemiology.* 2021;190(8):1659-1670.

Supplementary results

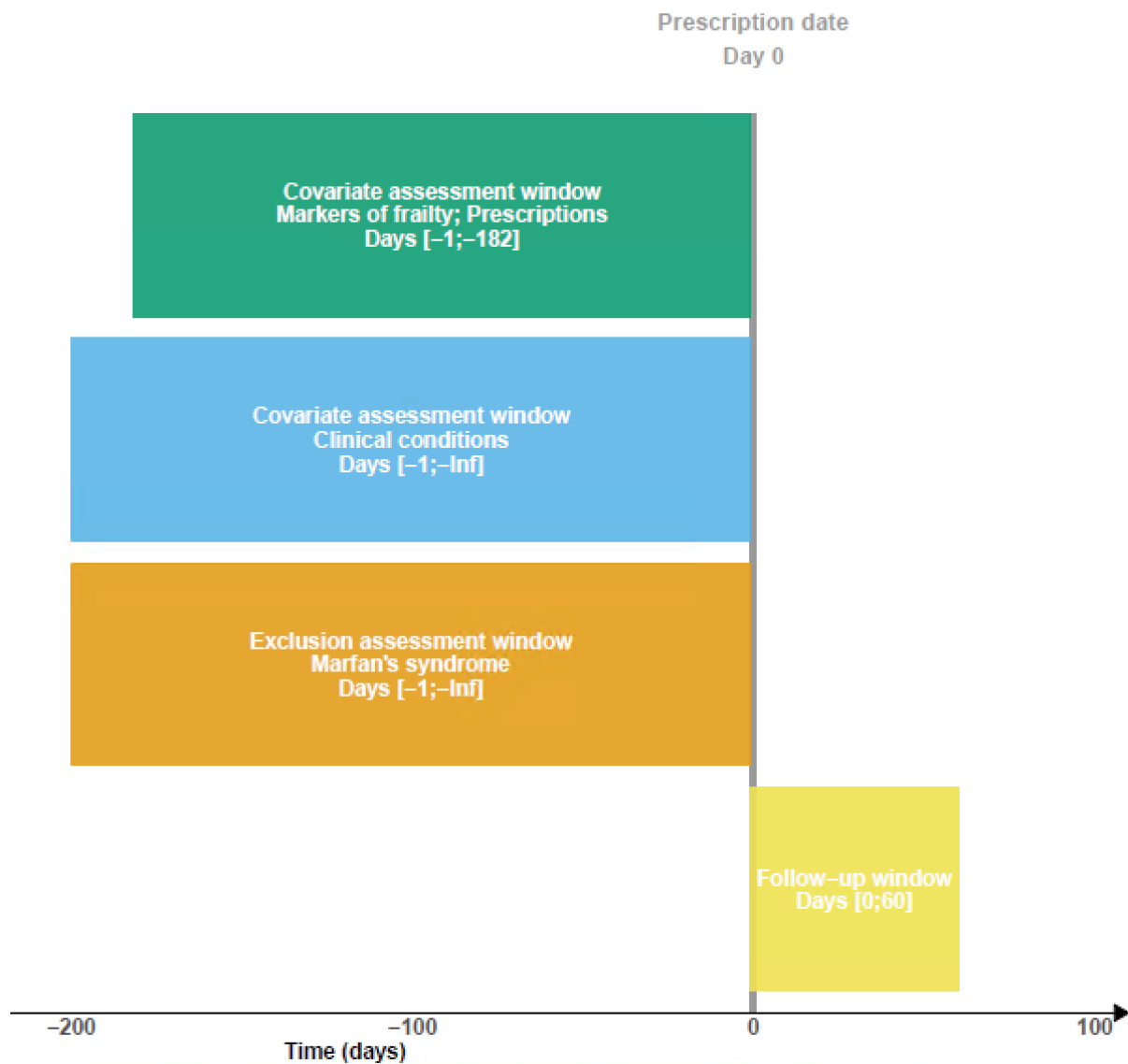
Secondary and sensitivity analyses

Similar effect estimates were observed when including all treatment episodes (eTable 4). In sensitivity analyses a complete case approach, excluding individuals with missing BMI or ethnicity, had minimal effect on estimates (eTables 5 and 6).

Varying the length of the periods under study and the time between periods in sensitivity analyses did not change findings (see eTables 11, 12, 13). Propensity score trimming did not change estimates substantially (eTable 14).

In GOLD 2,411 of 452,086 (0.5%) individuals and in Aurum 13,837 of 3,134,121 (0.4%) individuals at first treatment episode had received prior treatment with fluoroquinolones or cephalosporins within the 60 days prior. Exclusion of these individuals had minimal effect on the results (eTable 15).

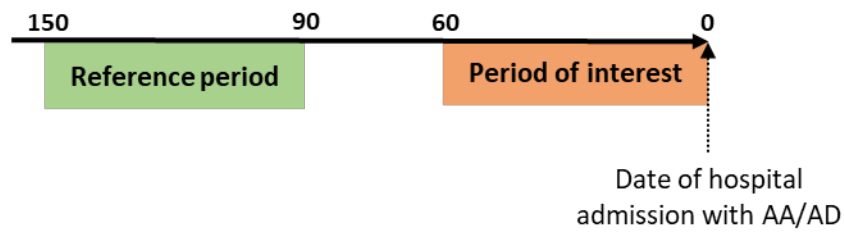
Supplementary figures



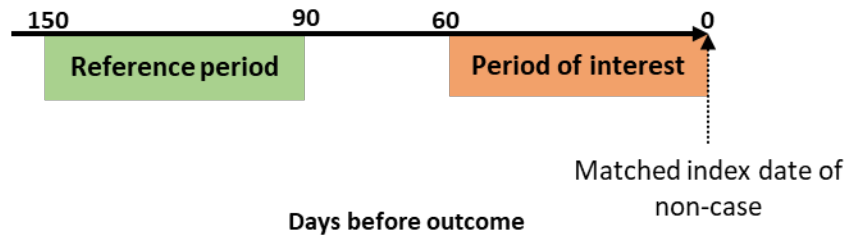
eFigure 1: Cohort studies: Graphical depiction of cohort design

Multiple treatment episodes were included per individual. Treatment episodes of fluroquinolone or cephalosporin among adults (aged 18+ years) without Marfan's syndrome eligible for HES APC linkage were included if occurring within the eligibility window.

Case: hospital admission with AA/AD

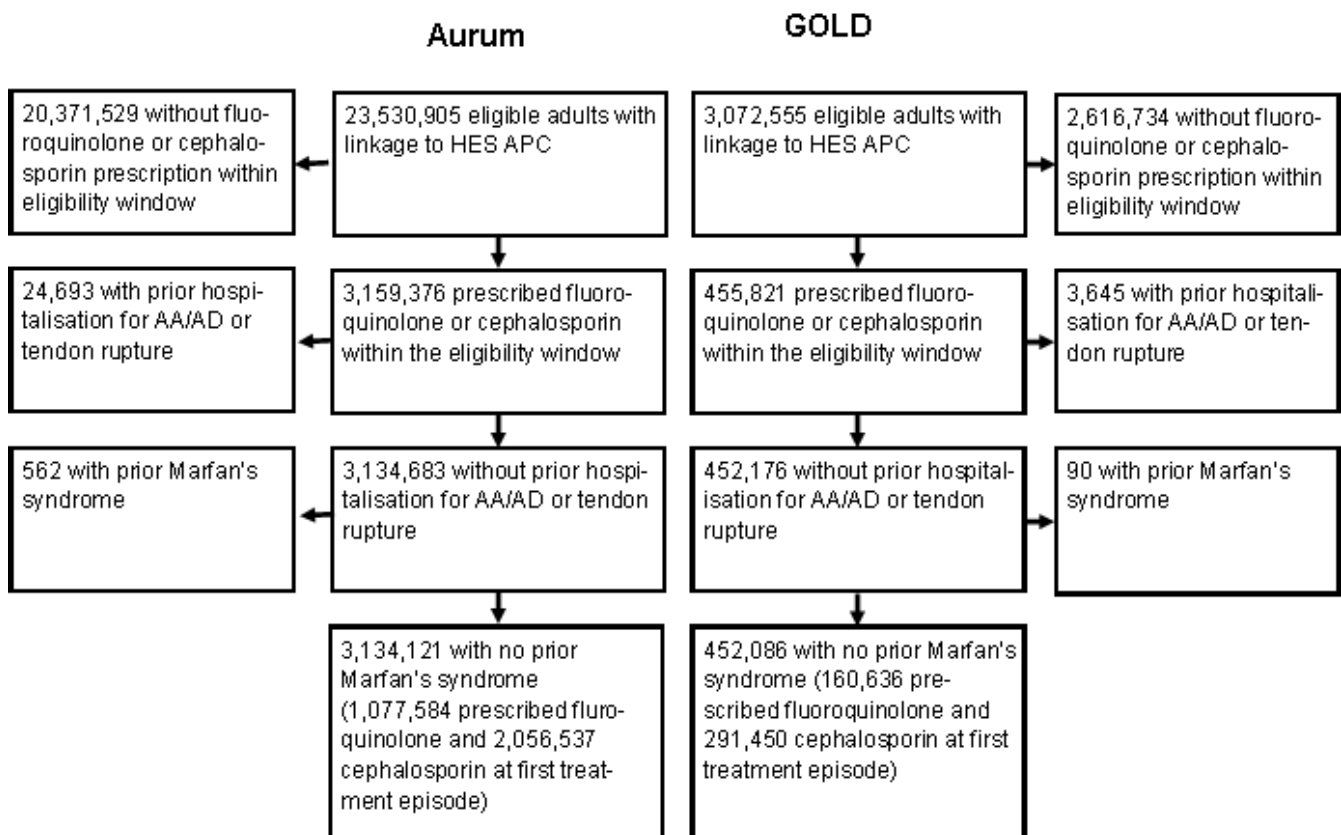


Control: no hospital admission with AA/AD

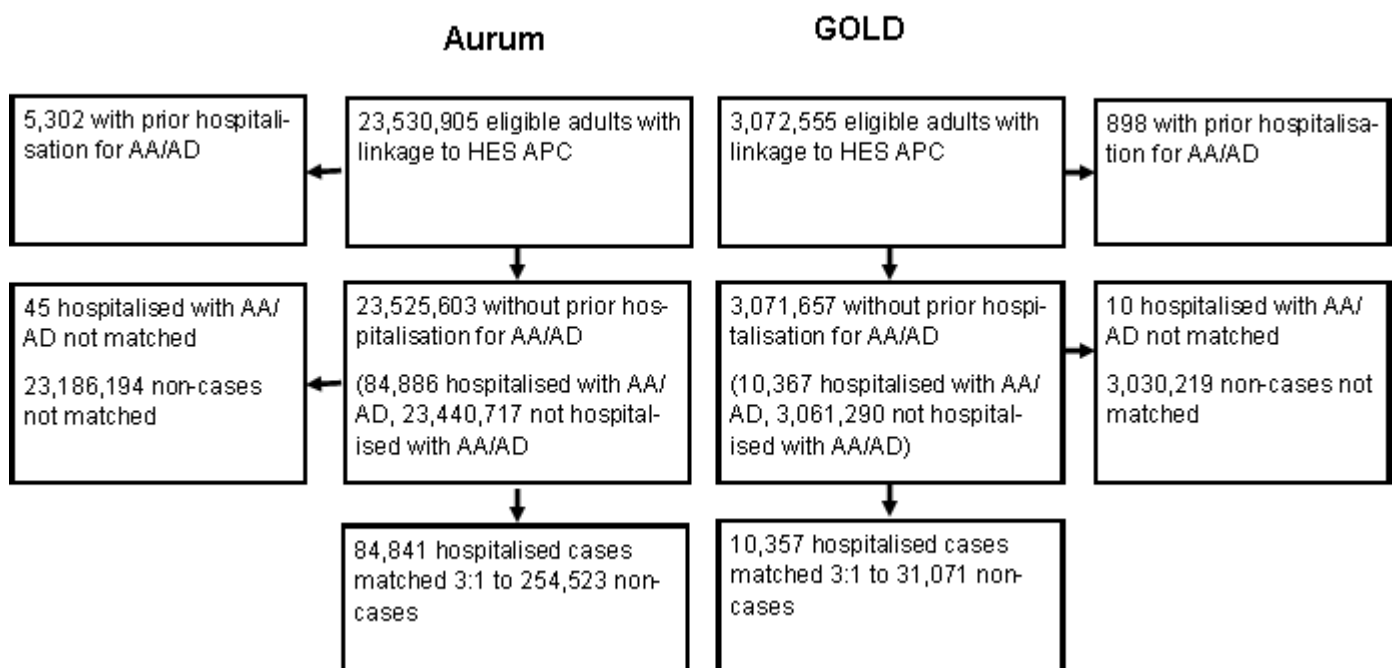


eFigure 2: Case-crossover study design

Definitions: AA/AD, aortic aneurysm or aortic dissection. Cases hospitalized with AA/AD were matched 1:1 to controls without AA/AD on calendar date, sex, year of birth and clinical practice. Odds of exposure prior to outcome occurrence relative to reference period were estimated using controls to adjust for trends in prescribing.



eFigure 3: Flow chart of cohort study subjects



eFigure 4: Flow chart of case-crossover study subjects

Supplementary tables

eTable 1: Cohort studies - Calendar year and ethnicity of individuals at first treatment episode

| Characteristic | Aurum | | GOLD | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Cephalosporin, N = 2,056,537 | Fluoroquinolone, N = 1,077,584 | Cephalosporin, N = 291,450 | Fluoroquinolone, N = 160,636 |
| Calendar year | | | | |
| 1997-2001 | 658,943 (32%) | 245,102 (23%) | 77,171 (26%) | 30,972 (19%) |
| 2002-2006 | 694,271 (34%) | 289,565 (27%) | 117,356 (40%) | 54,765 (34%) |
| 2007-2011 | 462,329 (22%) | 256,093 (24%) | 75,987 (26%) | 46,959 (29%) |
| 2012-2016 | 185,097 (9.0%) | 194,355 (18%) | 18,053 (6.2%) | 22,374 (14%) |
| 2017-2019 | 55,897 (2.7%) | 92,469 (8.6%) | 2,883 (1.0%) | 5,566 (3.5%) |
| Ethnicity | | | | |
| White | 1,746,817 (90%) | 923,988 (91%) | 255,187 (95%) | 141,487 (95%) |
| South Asian | 101,201 (5.2%) | 45,262 (4.5%) | 6,959 (2.6%) | 3,283 (2.2%) |
| Black | 52,470 (2.7%) | 25,626 (2.5%) | 2,951 (1.1%) | 1,682 (1.1%) |
| Other | 20,866 (1.1%) | 10,269 (1.0%) | 2,744 (1.0%) | 1,350 (0.9%) |
| Mixed | 14,034 (0.7%) | 7,447 (0.7%) | 1,080 (0.4%) | 637 (0.4%) |
| Missing | 121,149 | 64,992 | 22,529 | 12,197 |

eTable 2: Cohort studies - Maximum across imputed datasets of absolute standardised mean differences before and after weighting at first treatment episode

| Characteristic | Aurum | | GOLD | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
| | Unweighted | Weighted | Unweighted | Weighted |
| Age | 0.047 | 0.018 | 0.039 | 0.015 |
| Female | 0.494 | 0.001 | 0.456 | <0.001 |
| Below 10th percentile Carstairs Index | 0.031 | 0.001 | 0.039 | 0.001 |
| BMI ¹ | 0.014 | 0.005 | 0.05 | 0.002 |
| Current smoker | 0.027 | 0.001 | 0.047 | 0.001 |
| Heavy drinker | 0.066 | <0.001 | 0.06 | 0.004 |
| Statin in prior 6 months | 0.079 | 0.004 | 0.08 | 0.004 |
| Corticosteroid in prior 6 months | 0.052 | 0.007 | 0.073 | 0.005 |
| Coronary heart disease | 0.005 | 0.010 | <0.001 | 0.010 |
| Hypertension | 0.028 | 0.008 | 0.028 | 0.007 |
| Diabetes | 0.033 | 0.006 | 0.030 | 0.005 |
| Uncontrolled diabetes | 0.038 | 0.004 | 0.042 | 0.002 |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 0.015 | 0.007 | 0.024 | 0.009 |
| Dementia | 0.049 | 0.005 | 0.061 | 0.005 |
| HIV | 0.028 | <0.001 | 0.014 | <0.001 |
| Chronic liver disease | 0.033 | <0.001 | 0.030 | <0.001 |
| Chronic kidney disease | 0.013 | 0.008 | 0.007 | 0.007 |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 0.020 | 0.004 | 0.019 | 0.004 |
| Myocardial infarction | 0.011 | 0.006 | 0.010 | 0.006 |
| Carotid artery disease | 0.007 | 0.001 | 0.007 | 0.002 |
| Aortic aneurysm | 0.008 | 0.001 | 0.005 | 0.001 |
| Multiple sclerosis | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| Rheumatoid arthritis | 0.019 | 0.003 | 0.020 | 0.002 |

eTable 3: Characteristics of individuals included in cohort studies at all treatment episodes

| Characteristic | Aurum | | GOLD | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Cephalosporin, N = 4,524,703 | Fluoroquinolone, N = 2,279,956 | Cephalosporin, N = 606,374 | Fluoroquinolone, N = 327,831 |
| Age ¹ | 58 (39, 74) | 59 (43, 73) | 59 (40, 74) | 60 (44, 73) |
| Female | 3,367,587 (74%) | 1,214,994 (53%) | 451,089 (74%) | 180,332 (55%) |
| Calendar year | | | | |
| 1997-2001 | 1,043,936 (23%) | 389,130 (17%) | 118,034 (19%) | 48,079 (15%) |
| 2002-2006 | 1,545,696 (34%) | 612,865 (27%) | 238,022 (39%) | 107,143 (33%) |
| 2007-2011 | 1,248,274 (28%) | 625,889 (27%) | 193,793 (32%) | 110,007 (34%) |
| 2012-2016 | 528,571 (12%) | 453,626 (20%) | 48,868 (8.1%) | 50,900 (16%) |
| 2017-2019 | 158,226 (3.5%) | 198,446 (8.7%) | 7,657 (1.3%) | 11,702 (3.6%) |
| Ethnicity | | | | |
| White | 3,968,937 (92%) | 2,017,036 (92%) | 545,693 (96%) | 297,503 (96%) |
| South Asian | 207,360 (4.8%) | 91,163 (4.2%) | 12,791 (2.2%) | 6,016 (1.9%) |
| Black | 90,341 (2.1%) | 43,699 (2.0%) | 4,750 (0.8%) | 2,690 (0.9%) |
| Other | 37,430 (0.9%) | 17,562 (0.8%) | 4,890 (0.9%) | 2,288 (0.7%) |
| Mixed | 25,276 (0.6%) | 12,719 (0.6%) | 1,895 (0.3%) | 1,065 (0.3%) |
| Missing | 195,359 | 97,777 | 36,355 | 18,269 |
| Below 10th percentile Carstairs Index | 221,928 (4.9%) | 124,124 (5.4%) | 22,084 (3.6%) | 14,281 (4.4%) |
| BMI ¹ | 28 (25, 32) | 28 (25, 32) | 25.8 (22.8, 29.7) | 26.1 (23.1, 29.8) |
| Missing | 788,365 | 402,841 | 54,642 | 28,539 |
| Current smoker | 1,496,401 (33%) | 723,603 (32%) | 198,431 (33%) | 100,893 (31%) |
| Heavy drinker | 90,978 (2.0%) | 64,940 (2.8%) | 10,521 (1.7%) | 8,200 (2.5%) |
| Number of GP appointments in prior 6m ¹ | 2.0 (0.0, 6.0) | 2.0 (0.0, 7.0) | 5 (2, 10) | 6 (3, 12) |
| Hospitalised in prior 6m | 961,020 (21%) | 549,220 (24%) | 128,172 (21%) | 79,230 (24%) |
| Statin in prior 6 months | 785,320 (17%) | 450,769 (20%) | 100,755 (17%) | 64,374 (20%) |
| Corticosteroid in prior 6 months | 435,657 (9.6%) | 290,257 (13%) | 68,715 (11%) | 50,389 (15%) |
| Coronary heart disease | 544,068 (12%) | 280,867 (12%) | 73,047 (12%) | 41,103 (13%) |

| Characteristic | Aurum | | GOLD | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Cephalosporin, N = 4,524,703 | Fluoroquinolone, N = 2,279,956 | Cephalosporin, N = 606,374 | Fluoroquinolone, N = 327,831 |
| Hypertension | 1,282,770 (28%) | 673,306 (30%) | 167,496 (28%) | 95,121 (29%) |
| Diabetes | 466,141 (10%) | 258,908 (11%) | 72,824 (12%) | 43,901 (13%) |
| Uncontrolled diabetes | 317,315 (7.0%) | 178,812 (7.8%) | 38,710 (6.4%) | 24,338 (7.4%) |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 323,685 (7.2%) | 157,459 (6.9%) | 43,175 (7.1%) | 21,733 (6.6%) |
| Dementia | 104,643 (2.3%) | 37,376 (1.6%) | 13,374 (2.2%) | 4,479 (1.4%) |
| HIV | 3,239 (<0.1%) | 3,503 (0.2%) | 278 (<0.1%) | 250 (<0.1%) |
| Chronic liver disease | 21,521 (0.5%) | 17,700 (0.8%) | 2,295 (0.4%) | 1,956 (0.6%) |
| Chronic kidney disease | 886,816 (20%) | 431,122 (19%) | 126,181 (21%) | 67,849 (21%) |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 120,340 (2.7%) | 70,277 (3.1%) | 17,921 (3.0%) | 10,919 (3.3%) |
| Myocardial infarction | 178,732 (4.0%) | 97,285 (4.3%) | 24,509 (4.0%) | 14,336 (4.4%) |
| Carotid artery disease | 16,652 (0.4%) | 9,312 (0.4%) | 2,463 (0.4%) | 1,522 (0.5%) |
| Aortic aneurysm | 12,028 (0.3%) | 7,471 (0.3%) | 1,553 (0.3%) | 924 (0.3%) |
| Multiple sclerosis | 38,437 (0.8%) | 22,145 (1.0%) | 5,576 (0.9%) | 3,219 (1.0%) |
| Rheumatoid arthritis | 95,075 (2.1%) | 43,209 (1.9%) | 18,912 (3.1%) | 9,199 (2.8%) |

¹Median (interquartile range)

eTable 4: Cohort studies - Hazard ratios between fluoroquinolone relative to cephalosporin use and AA/AD or tendon rupture at all treatment episodes

| Outcome | Method | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Aortic aneurysm or dissection | Unadjusted | 1.32 | 1.21-1.43 | <0.001 | 0.98 | 0.78-1.24 | 0.875 | 1.27 | 1.18-1.37 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW weighted | 1.04 | 0.96-1.14 | 0.310 | 0.86 | 0.67-1.09 | 0.219 | 1.02 | 0.94-1.11 | 0.582 |
| Tendon rupture | Unadjusted | 2.21 | 1.92-2.54 | <0.001 | 2.97 | 1.91-4.62 | <0.001 | 2.27 | 1.98-2.59 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW weighted | 1.84 | 1.59-2.13 | <0.001 | 2.45 | 1.55-3.88 | <0.001 | 1.89 | 1.64-2.17 | <0.001 |

eTable 5: Cohort studies - Complete case-analysis hazard ratios between fluoroquinolone relative to cephalosporin use and AA/AD or tendon rupture at first treatment episode

| Outcome | Method | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Aortic aneurysm or dissection | Unadjusted | 1.39 | 1.20-1.60 | <0.001 | 1.15 | 0.80-1.63 | 0.448 | 1.35 | 1.19-1.54 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 1.06 | 0.91-1.22 | 0.473 | 0.96 | 0.66-1.39 | 0.827 | 1.04 | 0.91-1.19 | 0.550 |
| Tendon rupture | Unadjusted | 2.36 | 1.84-3.04 | <0.001 | 3.13 | 1.49-6.58 | 0.003 | 2.43 | 1.92-3.09 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 1.89 | 1.45-2.46 | <0.001 | 2.63 | 1.22-5.67 | 0.013 | 1.95 | 1.54-2.48 | <0.001 |

eTable 6: Cohort studies - Complete case-analysis hazard ratios between fluoroquinolone relative to cephalosporin use and AA/AD or tendon rupture at all treatment episodes

| Outcome | Method | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Aortic aneurysm or dissection | Unadjusted | 1.39 | 1.27-1.51 | <0.001 | 1.05 | 0.83-1.34 | 0.686 | 1.34 | 1.24-1.46 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 1.07 | 0.98-1.18 | 0.119 | 0.87 | 0.68-1.13 | 0.297 | 1.05 | 0.97-1.14 | 0.259 |
| Tendon rupture | Unadjusted | 2.20 | 1.90-2.54 | <0.001 | 3.06 | 1.95-4.81 | <0.001 | 2.27 | 1.97-2.61 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 1.81 | 1.56-2.11 | <0.001 | 2.49 | 1.56-3.98 | <0.001 | 1.87 | 1.62-2.15 | <0.001 |

eTable 7: Cohort studies - Hazard ratios between fluoroquinolone relative to cephalosporin use and AA/AD or tendon rupture at all treatment episodes adjusting for sex only

| Outcome | Method | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Aortic aneurysm or dissection | Unadjusted | 1.39 | 1.20-1.60 | <0.001 | 1.15 | 0.81-1.64 | 0.442 | 1.35 | 1.19-1.54 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 0.99 | 0.86-1.15 | 0.891 | 0.90 | 0.63-1.30 | 0.584 | 0.98 | 0.85-1.12 | 0.736 |
| Tendon rupture | Unadjusted | 2.37 | 1.84-3.05 | <0.001 | 3.14 | 1.49-6.59 | 0.003 | 2.44 | 1.92-3.10 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 2.08 | 1.61-2.70 | <0.001 | 3.00 | 1.40-6.40 | 0.005 | 2.16 | 1.70-2.75 | <0.001 |

eTable 8: Case-crossover study - Characteristics of cases and non-cases in CPRD Aurum

| Characteristic | Case, Reference period N = 84,841 | Case, Risk period N = 84,841 | Non-case, Reference period N = 254,523 | Non-case, Risk period N = 254,523 |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Age ¹ | 76 (69, 83) | 77 (70, 83) | 76 (69, 83) | 77 (70, 83) |
| Sex | | | | |
| Female | 23,551 (28%) | | 70,653 (28%) | |
| Male | 61,290 (72%) | | 183,870 (72%) | |
| Calendar year | | | | |
| 1996-2000 | 9,068 (11%) | 8,512 (10%) | 27,204 (11%) | 25,536 (10%) |
| 2001-2005 | 14,365 (17%) | 14,153 (17%) | 43,095 (17%) | 42,459 (17%) |
| 2006-2010 | 20,012 (24%) | 19,725 (23%) | 60,036 (24%) | 59,175 (23%) |
| 2011-2015 | 23,926 (28%) | 23,711 (28%) | 71,778 (28%) | 71,133 (28%) |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2016-2019 | 17,470 (21%) | 18,740 (22%) | 52,410 (21%) | 56,220 (22%) |
| Fluoroquinolone | 813 (1.0%) | 1,138 (1.3%) | 695 (0.3%) | 645 (0.3%) |
| Cephalosporin | 1,273 (1.5%) | 1,733 (2.0%) | 1,063 (0.4%) | 1,023 (0.4%) |
| Trimethoprim | 1,783 (2.1%) | 2,794 (3.3%) | 1,670 (0.7%) | 1,600 (0.6%) |
| Co-amoxiclav | 1,143 (1.3%) | 1,746 (2.1%) | 938 (0.4%) | 949 (0.4%) |

¹Median (interquartile range)

eTable 9: Case-crossover study - Characteristics of cases and non-cases in CPRD GOLD

| Characteristic | Case, Reference period N = 10,357 | Case, Risk period N = 10,357 | Non-case, Reference period N = 31,071 | Non-case, Risk period N = 31,071 |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Age ¹ | 76 (70, 82) | 77 (70, 83) | 76 (70, 82) | 77 (70, 83) |
| Sex | | | | |
| Female | 2,809 (27%) | | 8,427 (27%) | |
| Male | 7,548 (73%) | | 22,644 (73%) | |
| Calendar year | | | | |
| 1996-2000 | 937 (9.0%) | 853 (8.2%) | 2,811 (9.0%) | 2,559 (8.2%) |
| 2001-2005 | 2,424 (23%) | 2,366 (23%) | 7,272 (23%) | 7,098 (23%) |
| 2006-2010 | 3,369 (33%) | 3,375 (33%) | 10,107 (33%) | 10,125 (33%) |
| 2011-2015 | 2,756 (27%) | 2,805 (27%) | 8,268 (27%) | 8,415 (27%) |
| 2016-2019 | 871 (8.4%) | 958 (9.2%) | 2,613 (8.4%) | 2,874 (9.2%) |
| Fluoroquinolone | 92 (0.9%) | 145 (1.4%) | 100 (0.3%) | 98 (0.3%) |
| Cephalosporin | 169 (1.6%) | 240 (2.3%) | 152 (0.5%) | 146 (0.5%) |
| Trimethoprim | 255 (2.5%) | 380 (3.7%) | 212 (0.7%) | 226 (0.7%) |
| Co-amoxiclav | 129 (1.2%) | 237 (2.3%) | 136 (0.4%) | 149 (0.5%) |

¹Median (interquartile range)

eTable 10: Case-crossover study – Odds ratios for AA/AD with fluoroquinolones and comparator antibiotics relative to non-use

| Comparison | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | Odds ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Odds ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Odds Ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. non-use | 1.57 | 1.35-1.84 | <0.001 | 1.65 | 1.09-2.50 | 0.017 | 1.58 | 1.37-1.83 | <0.001 |
| Cephalosporin vs. non-use | 1.49 | 1.31-1.70 | <0.001 | 1.57 | 1.11-2.22 | 0.010 | 1.50 | 1.33-1.70 | <0.001 |
| Trimethoprim vs. non-use | 1.81 | 1.63-2.01 | <0.001 | 1.52 | 1.15-2.01 | 0.003 | 1.77 | 1.61-1.95 | <0.001 |
| Co-amoxiclav vs. non-use | 1.59 | 1.40-1.81 | <0.001 | 1.78 | 1.26-2.51 | 0.001 | 1.61 | 1.43-1.82 | <0.001 |

eTable 11: Case-crossover studies - Odds ratios for AA/AD with period length of 30 days and interval between periods of 30 days

| Comparison | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | Odds ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Odds ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Odds Ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. non-use | 1.45 | 1.18-1.78 | <0.001 | 1.49 | 0.85-2.61 | 0.159 | 1.46 | 1.20-1.77 | <0.001 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. cephalosporin | 0.87 | 0.67-1.13 | 0.304 | 1.04 | 0.51-2.11 | 0.924 | 0.89 | 0.70-1.14 | 0.351 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. trimethoprim | 0.74 | 0.58-0.95 | 0.016 | 0.70 | 0.37-1.35 | 0.289 | 0.74 | 0.59-0.93 | 0.009 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. co-amoxiclav | 0.82 | 0.63-1.07 | 0.146 | 0.70 | 0.34-1.42 | 0.323 | 0.81 | 0.63-1.03 | 0.088 |

eTable 12: Case-crossover studies - Odds ratios for AA/AD with period length of 60 days and interval between periods of 60 days

| Comparison | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | Odds ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Odds ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Odds Ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. non-use | 1.62 | 1.39-1.89 | <0.001 | 1.29 | 0.85-1.97 | 0.232 | 1.58 | 1.37-1.83 | <0.001 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. cephalosporin | 1.02 | 0.84-1.25 | 0.814 | 0.73 | 0.43-1.24 | 0.243 | 0.98 | 0.82-1.18 | 0.849 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. trimethoprim | 0.85 | 0.71-1.02 | 0.080 | 0.78 | 0.48-1.28 | 0.331 | 0.84 | 0.71-1.00 | 0.048 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. co-amoxiclav | 0.97 | 0.80-1.18 | 0.766 | 0.73 | 0.43-1.25 | 0.250 | 0.94 | 0.78-1.13 | 0.497 |

eTable 13: Case-crossover studies - Odds ratios for AA/AD with period length of 90 days and interval between periods of 30 days

| Comparison | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | Odds ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Odds ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Odds Ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. non-use | 1.55 | 1.35-1.77 | <0.001 | 1.27 | 0.89-1.83 | 0.188 | 1.51 | 1.33-1.71 | <0.001 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. cephalosporin | 1.07 | 0.90-1.28 | 0.420 | 0.77 | 0.49-1.21 | 0.254 | 1.03 | 0.88-1.21 | 0.725 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. trimethoprim | 0.90 | 0.77-1.06 | 0.203 | 0.85 | 0.56-1.30 | 0.453 | 0.90 | 0.77-1.04 | 0.146 |
| Fluoroquinolone vs. co-amoxiclav | 0.92 | 0.78-1.09 | 0.350 | 0.79 | 0.50-1.25 | 0.315 | 0.90 | 0.77-1.06 | 0.220 |

eTable 14: Cohort studies - Hazard ratios between fluoroquinolone prescribing relative to cephalosporin prescribing and AA/AD at first treatment episode with propensity score trimming

| Outcome | Method | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Aortic aneurysm or dissection | Unadjusted | 1.34 | 1.17-1.54 | <0.001 | 1.10 | 0.78-1.56 | 0.591 | 1.31 | 1.15-1.48 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 1.05 | 0.91-1.20 | 0.518 | 1.10 | 0.78-1.56 | 0.591 | 1.04 | 0.91-1.18 | 0.577 |
| Tendon rupture | Unadjusted | 2.75 | 2.14-3.54 | <0.001 | 3.63 | 1.64-8.04 | 0.003 | 2.83 | 2.23-3.59 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 2.47 | 1.91-3.20 | <0.001 | 3.38 | 1.50-7.64 | 0.005 | 2.55 | 1.99-3.26 | <0.001 |

eTable 15: Cohort studies - Hazard ratios between fluoroquinolone prescribing relative to cephalosporin prescribing and AA/AD at first treatment episode excluding individuals with prior fluoroquinolone or cephalosporin treatment in 60 days prior

| Outcome | Method | Aurum | | | GOLD | | | Pooled | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value | Hazard ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
| Aortic aneurysm or dissection | Unadjusted | 1.31 | 1.15-1.49 | <0.001 | 1.07 | 0.77-1.50 | 0.676 | 1.28 | 1.13-1.44 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW Weighted | 1.05 | 0.91-1.20 | 0.515 | 0.97 | 0.68-1.38 | 0.853 | 1.04 | 0.91-1.18 | 0.589 |
| Tendon rupture | Unadjusted | 2.33 | 1.83-2.96 | <0.001 | 3.30 | 1.53-7.12 | 0.004 | 2.41 | 1.92-3.02 | <0.001 |
| | IPTW weighted | 1.91 | 1.49-2.45 | <0.001 | 2.90 | 1.31-6.42 | 0.010 | 1.99 | 1.57-2.52 | <0.001 |

