

# Forget Statistical Significance

Sheila Weiss, PhD FISPE  
Professor

# Outline

- \* Adverse Event Reporting and Pharmacovigilance
- \* Disproportionality-based data mining
- \* Visualization
- \* Future directions

# Adverse Event

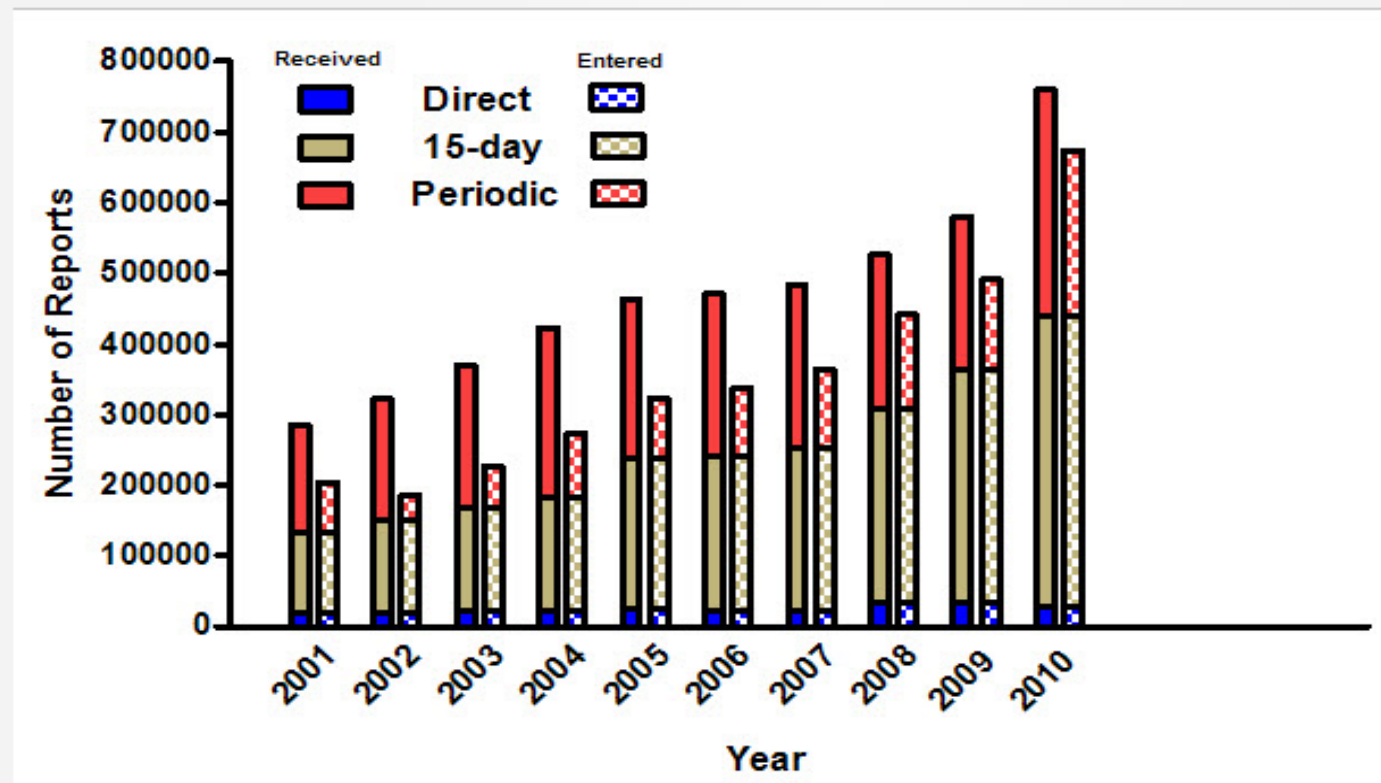
- \* Any ***serious***, undesirable experience associated with the use of a medical product in a patient.
- \* An adverse event is ***serious*** if it results in:
  - \* Death
  - \* Life-Threatening
  - \* Hospitalization (initial or prolonged)
  - \* Disability
  - \* Congenital Anomaly
  - \* Requires Intervention to Prevent Permanent Impairment or Damage

# Pharmacovigilance

- \* Monitoring of approved medical products to identify safety concerns and take appropriate action
- \* The FDA's Adverse Event Reporting Database (AERS) is the largest repository of AE reports in the world
  - \* Surveillance began in 1961
  - \* Reports from 1969 in a searchable database
  - \* Approximately 3 million reports in just the past decade

# Reporting of Adverse Events in the US

Figure 1. This figure illustrates the number of reports received (solid bars) and entered (checkered bars) into AERS by type of report since the year 2000 until the end of 2010.



Source: FDA <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Surveillance/AdverseDrugEffects/ucm070434.htm>

**MEDWATCH**The FDA Safety Information and  
Adverse Event Reporting ProgramFor VOLUNTARY reporting of  
adverse events and product problems

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Form Approved: CMB No. 0910-0291, Expires: 03/31/05  
See CMB statement on reverse.**FDA USE ONLY**Triage unit  
sequence #**A. PATIENT INFORMATION**

1. Patient Identifier	2. Age at Time of Event: or _____ Date of Birth: _____	3. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	4. Weight ____ lbs or ____ kg
-----------------------	--	--	--

In confidence

**B. ADVERSE EVENT OR PRODUCT PROBLEM**

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse Event and/or <input type="checkbox"/> Product Problem (a.g., defects/malfunctions)	
2. Outcomes Attributed to Adverse Event (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Death: _____ (m/day/yr)	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability
<input type="checkbox"/> Life-threatening	<input type="checkbox"/> Congenital Anomaly
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalization - initial or prolonged	<input type="checkbox"/> Required Intervention to Prevent Permanent Impairment/Damage
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
3. Date of Event (m/day/yr)	4. Date of This Report (m/day/yr)

5. Describe Event or Problem

6. Relevant Tests/Laboratory Data, including Dates

7. Other Relevant History, including Preexisting Medical Conditions (a.g., allergies, race, pregnancy, smoking and alcohol use, hepatic/renal dysfunction, etc.)

**C. SUSPECT MEDICATION(S)**

1. Name (Give labeled strength & manufacturer, if known)	
#1	
#2	
2. Dose, Frequency & Route Used	
#1	
#2	
3. Therapy Dates (If unknown, give duration) from/to (or best estimate)	
#1	
#2	
4. Diagnosis for Use (Indication)	
#1	
#2	
5. Event Abated After Use Stopped or Dose Reduced?	
#1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't Apply
#2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't Apply
6. Lot # (If known)	
#1	
#2	
7. Exp. Date (If known)	
#1	
#2	
8. Event Reappeared After Reintroduction?	
#1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't Apply
#2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't Apply
9. NDC# (For product problems only)	
#1	
#2	
10. Concomitant Medical Products and Therapy Dates (Exclude treatment of event)	

**D. SUSPECT MEDICAL DEVICE**

1. Brand Name		
2. Type of Device		
3. Manufacturer Name, City and State		
4. Model #	Lot #	5. Operator of Device
Catalog #	Expiration Date (m/day/yr)	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Professional
Serial #	Other #	<input type="checkbox"/> Lay User/Patient
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
6. If Implanted, Give Date (m/day/yr)		7. If Explanted, Give Date (m/day/yr)
8. Is this a Single-use Device that was Reprocessed and Reused on a Patient?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
9. If Yes to Item No. 8, Enter Name and Address of Reprocessor		
10. Device Available for Evaluation? (Do not send to FDA)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Returned to Manufacturer on: _____ (m/day/yr)		
11. Concomitant Medical Products and Therapy Dates (Exclude treatment of event)		

**E. REPORTER (See confidentiality section on back)**

1. Name and Address		Phone #
2. Health Professional?	3. Occupation	4. Also Reported to:
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer
5. If you do NOT want your identity disclosed to the manufacturer, place an "X" in this box: <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> User/Facility
		<input type="checkbox"/> Distributor/Importer



Mail to: **MedWatch**  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852-9787

-or- FAX to:  
1-800-FDA-0178

FORM FDA 3500 (12/03) submission of a report does not constitute an admission that medical personnel or the product caused or contributed to the event.

# AERS DATA

## Limited data fields on publically available dataset

Coding dictionary of adverse reactions terms has changed over time.

- New dictionary (MedDRA) adopted in late 1997
- >20,000 Preferred Terms
- Unlimited number of Preferred Terms per report

# Bevacizumab (Avastin) Data Mining

**Table 1.** Clinically novel preferred terms categorized by clinical disorder

Clinical disorder	PTs <sup>a</sup>	PRR	N for bevacizumab <sup>b</sup>
Bowel obstruction	<b>Duodenal obstruction</b>	20.88	5
	<b>Small intestinal obstruction</b>	15.95	143
	<b>Obstruction gastric</b>	14.31	16
	<b>Gastrointestinal obstruction</b>	8.7	9
	Intestinal obstruction	7.7	156
	<b>Intussusception</b>	8.6	6
	<b>Colonic obstruction</b>	15.2	15
Hepatic disorders	Large intestinal obstruction	13.1	5
	Hyperbilirubinaemia	3.25	30
	Hepatic atrophy	3.05	3
	<b>Hepatic cirrhosis</b>	2.18	32
	<b>Hepatic ischaemia</b>	8.9	3
Cardiomyopathic disorders	<b>Portal hypertension</b>	6.61	22
	Stress cardiomyopathy	3.34	4
	Cardiomyopathy	2.46	49
	<b>Diastolic dysfunction</b>	2.05	8
	<b>Left ventricular dysfunction</b>	8.16	26
	<b>Ventricular dysfunction</b>	2.69	25
	Ejection fraction decreased	3.2	55
Arrhythmia and conduction disorders	<b>Brain natriuretic peptide increased</b>	3.05	10
	Nodal arrhythmia	3.25	6
	Tachyarrhythmia	2.4	9
	<b>Arrhythmia supraventricular</b>	7.67	17
	Sinus tachycardia	2.11	44
	<b>Supraventricular tachycardia</b>	3.15	41
	<b>Electrocardiogram QRS complex abnormal</b>	6.04	3
Vessel wall disorders	Aortic disorder	4.11	5
	<b>Aneurysm ruptured</b>	7.31	7
	<b>Aortic aneurysm rupture</b>	6.07	7
	<b>Aortic dissection</b>	8.25	18
Sudden cardiac death	Cardiac death	3.13	4
	<b>Sudden cardiac death</b>	2.68	13
	<b>Sudden death</b>	3.63	81
	Pulse absent	2	20

## Proportional Reporting Ratio (PRR)

$$= \frac{\text{Proportion of specific AE's using the drug}}{\text{Proportion of other AE's using the drug}}$$

Source: Shamloo et al. Drug Safety 2012

# Counterfeit medications are a global problem



## drug safety

### More US Doctors Warned about Fake Cancer Drugs

May 2, 2012

The Food and Drug Administration has sent warning letters to more than 50 U.S. doctors and medical clinics that may have purchased counterfeit cancer injectable medication. Originally the FDA sent [19 medical practices warnings in March](#). The FDA warns the physicians that purchasing from foreign or unlicensed medicine suppliers puts patients at risk of exposure to potentially fake, contaminated, ineffective and dangerous medication. [MORE>>>](#)



## counterfeit news

### 2 Sentenced for Smuggling Counterfeit Medicines Into US Via Internet

May 9, 2012

Two Israeli citizens pleaded guilty to smuggling counterfeit and misbranded drugs in the US, announced FDA-OCI. Said OCI, "Both men operated an Internet business in Israel that used multiple websites... to illegally sell large amounts of prescription drugs to U.S. purchasers...generating approximately \$1,475,363 in gross proceeds." [MORE>>>](#)



## press releases

### Partnership for Safe Medicines Praises G8 Action to Combat Drug Counterfeiting

May 21, 2012

Washington, D.C. (May 21, 2012) – Marv Shepherd, PhD, president of the Partnership for Safe Medicines, today released the following statement regarding news that global leaders at the G8 Summit have addressed the growing threat posed by counterfeit medicines: "The... [MORE>>>](#)

Source: Partnership for Safe Medicines <http://www.safemedicines.org/>



# Assumption: Counterfeits may be Ineffective

Search Criteria Name: SWS-Ineffective - 1 decade Q4 2011

Search Dictionary Version: 15.00

(Drug Legend: **A**=All, **S**=Suspect, **I**=Ingredient, **N**=Drug Name) [current cases only]

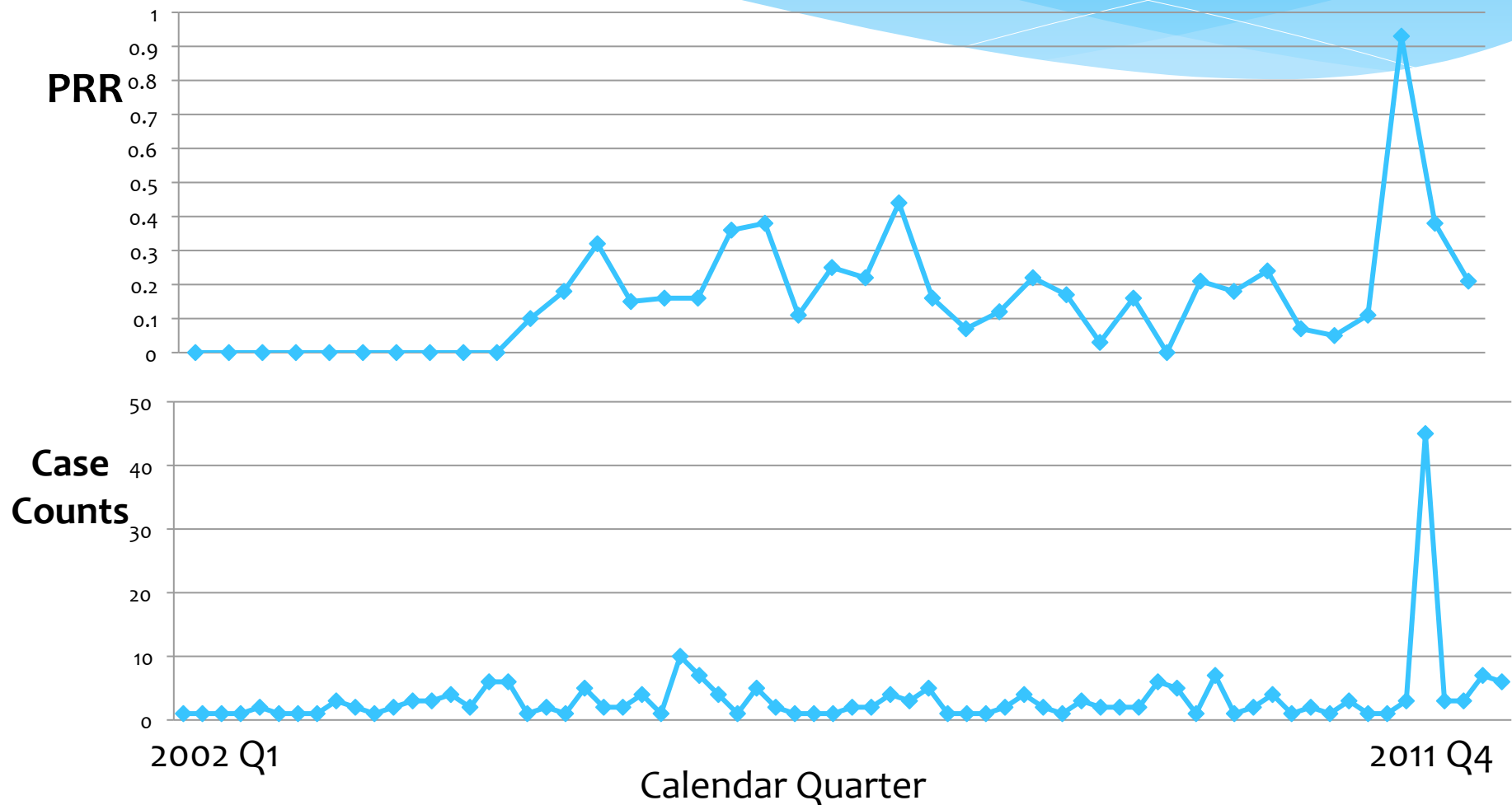
Criteria		Value
Data Source		FDA Dataset
Drugs		all
Reactions	PT(s)	no therapeutic response therapeutic product ineffective therapeutic product ineffective for unapproved indication therapeutic response decreased treatment failure drug effect decreased drug ineffective drug ineffective for unapproved indication device ineffective
Reaction boolean		[ (no therapeutic response <b>or</b> therapeutic product ineffective <b>or</b> therapeutic product ineffective for unapproved indication <b>or</b> therapeutic response decreased <b>or</b> treatment failure <b>or</b> drug effect decreased <b>or</b> drug ineffective <b>or</b> drug ineffective for unapproved indication <b>or</b> device ineffective) ]
Demographics		all
Report Dates		From: Jan 1, 2002 To: Dec 31, 2011
Event Dates		all
Outcomes		all

(and n statistics)

[illegible]

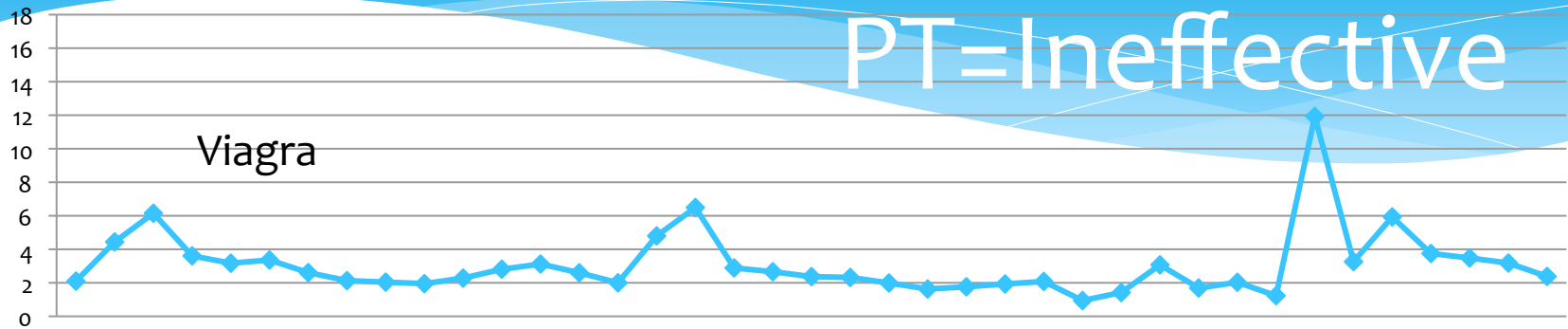
# Avastin (Bevacizumab)

Feb 22, 2012 FDA issues warning of counterfeit Avastin

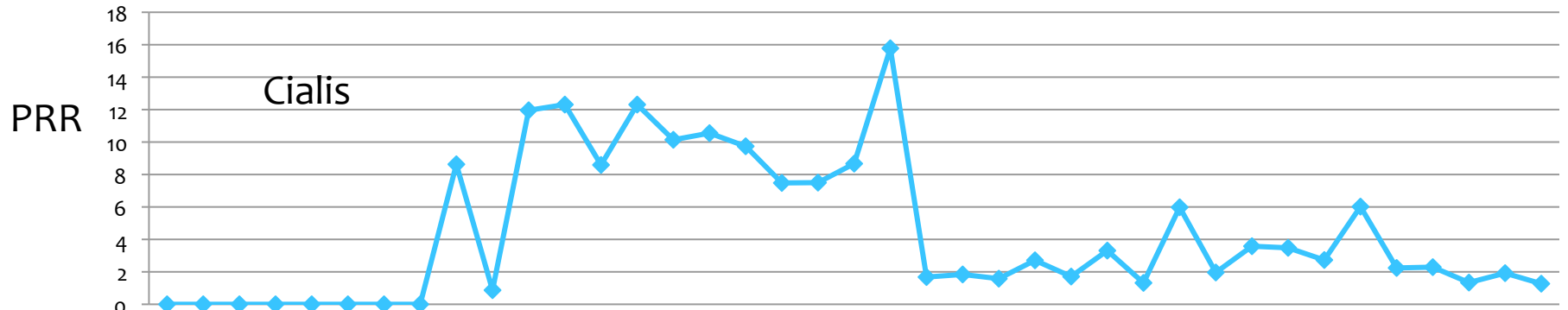


PT=Ineffective

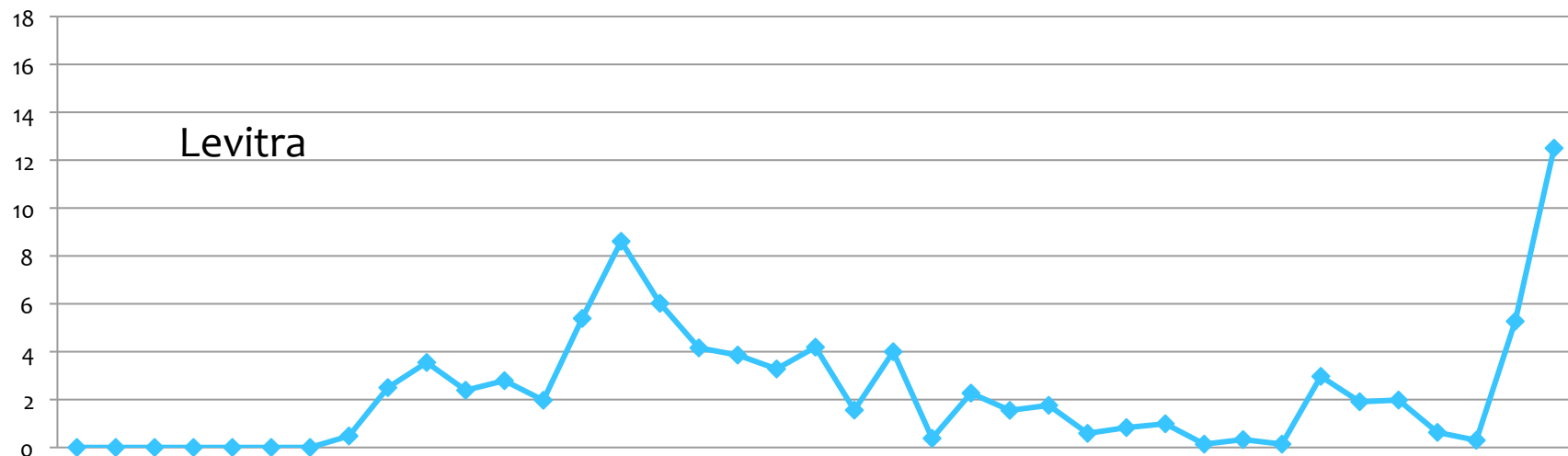
Viagra



Cialis



Levitra



# Future Directions

- \* Threshold-based data mining is unnecessarily restrictive
  - \* Subject matter, expert driven mining is the goal
- \* Criteria to best identify counterfeits (e.g. Preferred Terms) needs to be developed
  - \* It will vary by the drug, its dosage form, and the ingredients in the counterfeit product.
- \* Geographic data on reporting and lot numbers will increase the value of AERS data
  - \* Priorities - high cost biologics and high value medical devices
- \* National surveillance for the emergence of counterfeits and other safety concerns should be carried out across agencies and databases