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COST SAVINGS IMPACT OF BIOSIMILARS: A LOCAL EXPERIENCE ON TRASTUZUMAB.

R. Piscitelli¹, I. Avallone¹, M.G. D'Apice², M.T. Feola³, M.R. Sarno⁴, P. Maiolino⁴.

¹University Of Naples "Federico II", Pharmacy, Naples, Italy; ²University Of Caserta "Luigi Vanvitelli", Pharmacy, Caserta, Italy; ³University Of Salerno, Pharmacy, Salerno, Italy; ⁴National Tumor Institute "Fondazione G. Pascale", Pharmacy, Naples, Italy.

Background and Importance

Boosting biosimilars is an indispensable approach to conduct a cost-savings management in healthcare systems. In fact, they are able to provide similar effectiveness and safety to originators but with lower costs and can increase market competition.

Aim and Objectives

The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate economic advantage of trastuzumab biosimilar in the real-practice, showing and comparing costs and consumption during the period 2018-2019.

Material and Methods

To conduct this analysis, patients, type of prescription (originator or biosimilar), number of cycles, administered milligrams and purchase prices, during the period 2018-2019, were extrapolated from pharmacy software and matched together. Moreover, a simulation was performed to estimate potential savings, supposing three scenarios based on different biosimilar penetration rate (50%, 75% and 100%) and using actual costs.

Results

Compared to 2018, during 2019 the number of treated patients remained similar (102 versus 98) and both a reduction of administered units of trastuzumab originator (TO) (-1383) and a growing prescription of trastuzumab biosimilar (TB) (+833 units) were observed. Costs of TO decreased from 3,28 €/mg to 2,58 €/mg, while average TB cost was 1,07 €/mg in 2019. TB held 24% of trastuzumab prescriptions but with only 11% of total costs, resulting in a reduction in total expenditure of 1.045.540 € (from 2.294.366 € spent in 2018 to 1.248.826 € spent in 2019). In addition, a simulation was performed. It considers three hypothetical scenarios with different penetration rates of TB in the market-share (50%, 75% and 100%) and the achievable savings would amount to respectively 236.836 €, 468.382 € and 698.185 €.



Conclusion and Relevance

Nowadays, cost-savings and rationalization policy are playing an essential role in healthcare systems and biosimilars represent a huge opportunity to reallocate available resources. This study demonstrates that trastuzumab biosimilar enhancing is a good strategy for the sustainability of care. In fact, trastuzumab costs decreased while the number of patients remained similar. This positive result is due to both the introduction of new biosimilars and the reduction of the originators costs. In the end, biosimilars constitute an efficient strategy for the sustainability of national health services, allowing the resources reallocation and the access to care to a larger number of patients.