

# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DRUG SHORTAGES

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## Background and importance

Drug shortage is an international problem, which is increasingly frequent, and has a tremendous impact on health care systems

## Aim and objectives

To quantify economic implication of drug shortages in acute care hospitals

## Materials and methods

Retrospective Study  
January/2018-March/2019

SHORTAGE: Defined as a shortcoming in the supply of a medicinal product that affects the patient's ability to access the required treatment in due time

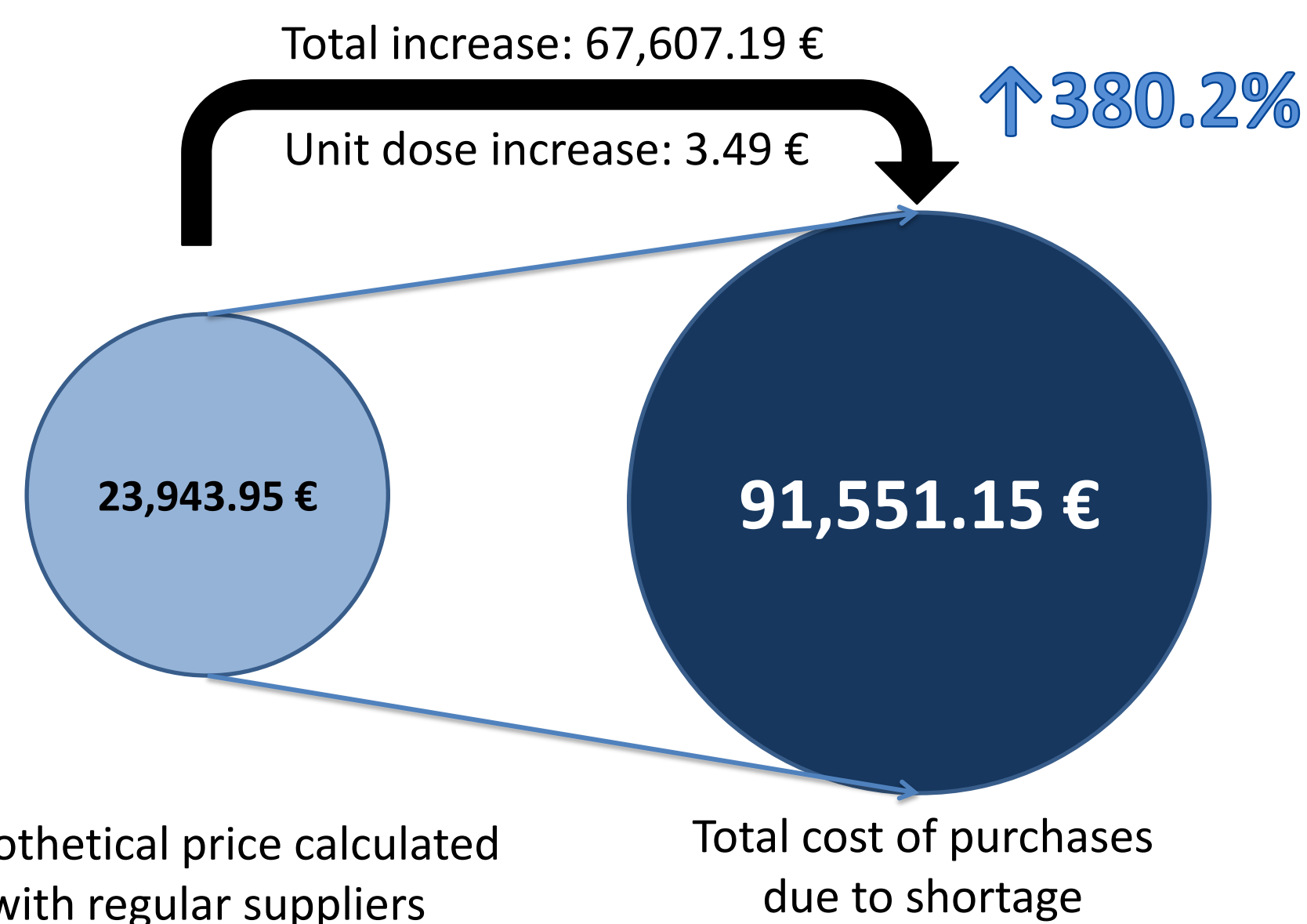
INCREASED COSTS? TOTAL COST? AFFECTED PATIENTS?

## Results

DRUG	TOTAL COST(€)
Piperacillin/tazobactam injection 4/0.5 g	47,590.4
Alprostadiil injection 20 mcg	15,815.8
Dexchlorpheniramine injection 5 mg	10,632.8
BCG strain Tice 2-8x10 <sup>8</sup> UFC intravesical	5,427.29
Phytomenadione injection 10 mg	5,335.5
Magnesium sulphate injection 1.5 g	2,828.4
Clorazepate dipotassium injection 20 mg	1,393.6
Metoclopramide injection 10 mg	1,248
Sodium Chloride injection 20% 10 mL	650
Doxycycline injection 100 mg	568.5
Isoniazid/pyrazinamide/rifampicin 50/300/120 mg tablets	60.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91,551.13</b>

79%  
OF THE  
TOTAL COST

- 19 new suppliers { 5 compounding pharmacies  
14 international manufacturers
- 11 Medicines were involved



- There was no change in the price of acquisition for intravesical BCG and one of the alprostadiil suppliers
- Dexchlorpheniramine injection 5 mg was switched to an equivalent drug, chlorpheniramine injection 10 mg

## Conclusion and relevance

The results suggest that shortages significantly increase the acquisition cost of pharmaceuticals in hospitals.  
Strategies to minimize the effects of drug shortages should be implemented

## References and/or acknowledgements

Elfi De Weerd Email author Steven Simoens Minne Casteels Isabelle Huys . Clinical, Economic and Policy Implications of Drug Shortages in the European Union. Applied Health Economics and Health Policy. August 2017, Volume 15, Issue 4, pp 441-445

