**BACKGROUND**

Problems caused by medicine shortages are serious, threaten patient care in hospitals and require urgent action.

**PURPOSE**

To evaluate the economic impact of drugs’ shortages and analyze the consequences that it entailed in hospital pharmacy services.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Retrospective observational study.

- **Medication requests** were reviewed through the “application of management of medicines in special situations” of AEMPs (jul/2016-jul/2018)
- **All purchases** made by the pharmacy services during that period were reviewed (1/7/2016-31/7/2018)
- **Those cases in which the purchase was made through the AEMPS were studied**
- **Economic impact** Of the supplier change was analyzed

**RESULTS**

- **447 requests**
  - **129 requests (25,85%)**
  - Drug-shortage problems (78,97% IV administration)

**Real expense - Theorical expense = 48,931.32€**

**CONCLUSION**

1. During the study period, the shortage of medicines involved an increase of 213% of the cost of medicines, concerning to numerous drugs especially those for intravenous administration.

2. When a lack of supply occurs, small hospitals are early affected consuming economic resources and increasing health professionals’ work.