OFF-LABEL DRUG USE IN A SPANISH UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Virgen de la Arrixaca University Hospital, Murcia, Spain.

Purpose
To analyze which clinical units requested more often off-label drugs, treatments and indications they were used, and to establish the economic impact

Material and methods
Descriptive observational study from October 2009 to December 2012.

Results

Ateneoplastic 73%
Musculoskeletal system 8%
Cardiovascular 5%
Antiinfective 5%
Other 9%

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Musculoskeletal system 8%
Cardiovascular 5%
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Requests submitted by physicians
Assessment reports developed by pharmacists
Hospital medical administration authorize or reject

Clinical Units
- Most petitioned drugs:
  1. Bevacizumab 13,3%
  2. Rituximab 8,2%

- Most petitioned indications:
  1. Glioblastoma 7,8%
  2. Breast cancer 5,3%

- Cost of authorized off-label drugs:
  1. € 4.938.808
  2. € 7.340 median cost per patient

- Unapproved treatments would have meant an expenditure of €1,656,644

Conclusions
1. Treatments, indications and clinical units most requested corresponded to the field of oncology and haematology.
2. The authorized off-label drugs have had a high economic impact.
3. Unapproved treatments would have increased costs with a theoretically minimal health benefits.

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