

COST ANALYSIS OF THERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS THREE YEARS AGO AND NOW

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OHP-003
L-03

Background

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is the most common disabling neurologic condition in young adults and imposes high financial and quality of life costs on patients, their families, and society.

During the last years, developments in the battle against MS include new treatments to slow its progression.

Purpose

To evaluate the financial impact of approving new drugs for the treatment of MS in the pharmacy department of a tertiary hospital.

Material and methods

Observational retrospective study comparing data from April 2012 to March 2013 against April 2015 to March 2016.

We analysed the prescriptions of disease modifying therapies. The data collected were: number of patients, age, gender, total expenditure (TE) and percentage of expenditure per drug (%EPD). The data were analysed through statistical descriptive study.

Results

We reviewed the treatment of 735 patients in the period 2012/2013 and 774 patients in 2015/2016.

In the study, there were no differences between the two periods as for gender and age.

As evidenced in the table:

The total number of treated patients has increased.

The variety of available therapies has grown.

The consumption has escalated €970.413(14,65%) in three years.

It is remarkable that new drugs such as teriflunomide, dimethyl fumarate, peginterferon beta 1a and alemtuzumab have determined an expenditure of €766.686(10,78%).

2012/2013	Nº PATIENTS	TE	%EPD
GLATIRAMERO 18 MG	146	€1.050.550,00	17,1%
INTERFERON BETA-1A/1B	393	€2.484.601,00	40,4%
FINGOLIMOD	81	€862.391,00	14,0%
NATALIZUMAB	115	€1.741.563,00	28,4%
TOTAL	735	€6.139.105,00	100%
2015/2016	Nº PATIENTS	TE	%EPD
GLATIRAMERO 36 MG	155	€973.997,00	13,7%
INTERFERON BETA-1A/1B	303	€2.324.817,00	32,7%
FINGOLIMOD	120	€1.733.909,00	24,4%
NATALIZUMAB	98	€1.310.109,00	18,4%
TERIFLUNOMIDE	27	€193.762,00	2,7%
DIMETHYL FUMARATE	55	€374.887,00	5,3%
PEGINTERFERON BETA-1A	5	€23.551,00	0,3%
ALEMTUZUMAB	11	€174.486,00	2,5%
TOTAL	774	€7.109.518,00	100,0%

Conclusion

The high cost of new therapies available and the increase in the number of patients, can explain why consumption has increased €970.413(14.65%) in three years. Therefore it is very important to use drugs in a rational way so that our Health System is sustainable.