Prevalence of asthma and severe asthma in patients affiliated to the Hospital Italiano Medical Care Program in Buenos Aires, Argentina

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Rationale

- Severe asthma (SA) drives a higher clinical and economic burden.
- Even being a small group, most of the costs and resources used for asthma in healthcare systems are due to SA.
- Despite this, there is a lack of data about which proportion of the asthma population presents that phenotype in Argentina.

Objectives

We aimed to describe the proportion of asthma and SA patients affiliated to a prepaid health maintenance organization (HMO) located in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We also aimed to describe the proportion of asthma patients treated with high doses of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS).

Methods

Data Source - Hospital Italiano of Buenos Aires: Not only a hospital but a complete medical care program and teaching facilities

2 main hospitals
24 peripheral outpatient centers
140,000 members (urban and suburban areas of Buenos Aires)
University: Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Bio-engineering

How severe asthma patients were identified?

Asthma patients from HIMCP* Health problem related to asthma recorded before 01-Jan-2016 with age > 12 years

Treated asthma patients

3 or 1 treatment for asthma dispensed in 2015

Severe asthma patients

GINA Steps 4 or 5: Medium or High ICS + Second controller users for at least 6 months (non-continuous)

Results

Severe asthma treated patients in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients affiliated in HIMCP</th>
<th>130,365</th>
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<td>4,185</td>
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<td>Asthma treated patients (3.2% of total)</td>
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| (14.2% of asthma patients) | *Only patients with complete data.

Conclusions

- The prevalence of asthma treated patients found in our study (3.2%) is similar to the prevalence described in Latin America Asthma Insight Management (LA AIM) study (3.4%).
- For SA, we found 14% of asthma patients with this phenotype, which is relatively higher than the proportion of 3-10% commonly described in the literature.1 4
- This data contributes to demonstrate the presence of this phenotype in Argentina and further studies should explore identification and burden of these patients.

References

2. Zeiger RS, Schatz M, Dalal AA, Qian L, Chen W, Ngor EW, Suruki RY, Kawatkar AA. Utilization and Costs of Severe Asthma: Data Source - Hospital Italiano of Buenos Aires: Not only a hospital but a complete medical care program and teaching facilities

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