

RESULTS: The strategy based on initial treatment with fluticasone propionate nasal drops resulted with treatment cost of PLN 768, while early polypectomy resulted with cost of PLN 1251. When surgery was performed in outpatients' settings the mean treatment costs were PLN 586 for initial fluticasone and PLN 751 for early polypectomy. Sensitivity analysis revealed that FPND is less costly therapy unless no computed tomography is performed prior to polypectomy and the cost of surgical procedure falls below PLN 170. **CONCLUSIONS:** Treatment strategy based on fluticasone propionate nasal drops is effective in bilateral nasal polyposis and results in short-term cost savings.

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COST OF COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA (CAP) TREATMENT WITH KETEK (TELITHROMYCIN) VS CLARITHROMYCIN FROM PUBLIC PAYER PERSPECTIVE IN POLAND

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OBJECTIVES: To assess the clinical effectiveness and economic consequences of telithromycin or clarithromycin in CAP treatment from public payer perspective in Poland. **METHODS:** Results of a systematic review of published clinical trials selected in accordance with EBM criteria were used to assess effectiveness and safety of the antibiotics in CAP treatment. The economic consequences for public payer for therapy of individual patient in case of clarithromycin replacement by Ketek (telithromycin) were calculated. In this analysis it was assumed that only pharmacotherapy costs and CAP hospitalization costs differed; other costs were assumed to be the same irrelevant to the antibiotic used. An assumption was made that level of pharmacotherapy reimbursement in case of treatment with both telithromycin and clarithromycin would be the same, public payer costs for DDD were calculated. Costs of CAP hospitalization varied on number of admissions during 1 month of follow-up period. **RESULTS:** Clinical effects of the two drugs were similar and no significant differences in effectiveness or safety were found in pooled data from two randomized clinical trials. Telithromycin treatment was associated with significantly fewer CAP-related hospitalizations compared with clarithromycin (1.6% vs 3.6% patients admitted, respectively). CAP-related hospital costs per patient were much lower for telithromycin treatment compared with clarithromycin (35.5 pln (8.45E) vs. 79.2 pln (18.8E) respectively). Taking into account reimbursement of pharmacotherapy and costs of hospitalization, public payer savings when using telithromycin in place of clarithromycin could be as high as 33 pln(7.8E) – 50 pln(12E)/patient (based on sensitivity analysis). This lead to high annual savings for public payer. **CONCLUSIONS:** Ketek (telithromycin) in place of clarithromycin lead to significant savings for public payer in CAP treatment in Poland.

PR510

PROJECTING THE FUTURE COSTS OF ASTHMA AND COPD IN THE NETHERLANDS

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OBJECTIVE: This study aimed to project future costs of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in The Netherlands for the period 2000–2025. **METHODS:** Gender-, age- and (for COPD) disease-stage specific data on direct, medical costs per patient were obtained from a cost of illness study for the year 2000. Cost projections over the period

2000–2025 were based on two types of projections of the prevalence of asthma and COPD. Both prevalence projections were combined with two types of cost projections; first assuming constant costs per patient and second adding asthma and COPD-specific trends in costs for hospital care (asthma, –4.7% and COPD, –4.1% per year) and medication (+4.9% per year) and general trends in remaining cost categories. **RESULTS:** In 2000 the annual costs per asthma patient were €315, compared to €915 for a COPD patient. Assuming constant costs per patient, costs were projected to increase from €141 million in 2000 to amounts between 167 and €181 million for asthma and from 280 to €443–495 million for COPD. Severity stage specific COPD costs increased from 22.6 to 51.2 for mild COPD, from 104 to 148 for moderate, from 99.0 to 140 for severe and from 54.5 to €156 million for very severe COPD. Including trends costs categories resulted in estimates between 460 and 497 for asthma and 1023 and €1130 million for COPD. **CONCLUSION:** Projections of future costs show that the absolute and relative increase in costs over the period 2000–2025 is higher for COPD than for asthma.

PR511

MANAGEMENT OF COPD IN BELGIUM: A REAL LIFE COST OF ILLNESS STUDY

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OBJECTIVES: To assess the cost of managing COPD (health care payers perspective) in a real life setting in Belgium. **METHODS:** A multi-centre observational study with data-collection in a retrospective way (one-year) was performed. A total of 38GPs and 15pneumologists participated. Patients consulting the physicians in Q4 2004–Q1 2005 were eligible. Individual data-collection sheets per patient, evaluating the yearly medical resource use, were completed by each investigator. Diagnostic methods, COPD severity, as well as smoking habits were evaluated. **RESULTS:** A total of 460 patients were evaluated. Mean age was 66 years, males represented 68.70%. 40.43% of patients were smokers (average n pack-years 36.69, StErr 1.54), 50.22% ex-smokers. COPD diagnosis was made in about half of the patients by both clinical evaluation and spirometry. A total of 13% of the patients had mild COPD, 47% moderate, 30% severe and 10% very severe COPD according to clinical evaluation or spirometry (GOLD-guidelines). A total of 73% of the patients experienced at least 1 exacerbation during the 1-year-study-period. Yearly number of exacerbations ranged between 0 and 12 (average n: 1.37, median: 1.00). In most cases (69.64%), no hospitalisation was needed. If hospitalized, average hospital stay per exacerbation was 13.30 days (StErr 1.03). Yearly COPD-maintenance-treatment cost ranged between 390€ (mild) to €1117 (very severe COPD). Maintenance-treatment included a wide range of medications. Management of COPD resulted in a total yearly cost of €1810 (StErr 139.55, range €537 (mild COPD)—€5888 (very severe COPD)), including maintenance-treatment (€670, StErr 26.67), hospitalisation (€1073, StErr 130.16) and treatment of exacerbations (€67, StErr 6.78). **CONCLUSIONS:** Management of COPD is costly, mainly due to the cost of hospitalisations. For very severe COPD patients, yearly management costs increase up to almost €6000.

PR512

THE BURDEN OF LUNG DISEASE (BOLD) ECONOMIC MODEL

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