OBJECTIVES: Constipation is considered an inconvenient problem, however data on the real burden is lacking. The objective of the current analysis was to provide the clinical and economic perspectives in the burden of constipation in chronic conditions. METHODS: Five international databases (March 2000 to December 2015) were searched for the term "constipation" assessing the impact of treatments. RESULTS: A total of 30 articles were included, and the largest database was the IMS Hospital Disease Database (2000). Comparisons were made with non-responders and patients with successful treatment. The burden of untreated constipation was not significantly different between the two groups. However, when comparing the direct costs, the burden of constipation was significant. CONCLUSIONS: The burden of untreated constipation is significant, highlighting the need for interventions to improve healthcare costs.