OBJECTIVES: Chronic spontaneous/idiopathic urticaria (CSU/CIU) is defined as the spontaneous onset of itchy hives, and it is a frequent cause of cutaneous symptoms. A significant number of patients with CSU/CIU have a significant yet underestimated impact on patient’s work productivity. The ASSURE-CSU study aims to identify and quantify the humanistic and economic burden of CSU/CIU. The primary objective was to determine the proportion of overall work impairment due to CSU/CIU.

RESULTS: Cohort included 99 patients with demographics as follows: 56 (56.5%) females and 43 (43.5%) males. The mean age of the patients was 50.8 years; 5 years younger than the mean age of 55.3 years reported in the literature. Overall, 86 patients completed the study. The mean proportion of overall work impairment due to CSU/CIU was 30.6% (SD = 27%). Total indirect monthly cost of work productivity loss was estimated to be a mean (SD) of $1,177 per patient in full-time employment. The overall indirect cost increased with disease severity. CONCLUSIONS: This Canadian-specific analysis from ASSURE-CSU suggests that almost all patients in employment are affected at work by their disease, either through absenteeism or reduced productivity at work resulting in significant economic impact for employers and society.

COST-CONSEQUENCE OF EOSINOPHILIC ASTHMA AMONG PATIENTS TREATED ACROSS CANADA: A HEALTH UTILITARIAN VIEWPOINT USING THE EQ-5D

OBJECTIVES: Asthma patients were extracted from EMR claims database from Jan 2004-July 2011. Data of asthma diagnosis was defined as the index date. The 12-month period following index was defined as 'assessment' period. Patients were classified by factors such as medication use and lung function based on the newly published European Respiratory Society/American Thoracic Society guidelines. Asthma patients who presented with severe asthma and elevated blood eosinophils (EOS) versus normal EOS. METHODS: Asthma patients were extracted from EMR claims database. Out of 2,164 asthma patients identified, 1,563 EOS ≥ 500 μl and normal EOS < 400 μl were considered using square tests. Logistic regression was conducted to assess the influence of elevated EOS on probability of incurring resource use after controlling for demographics and baseline comorbidities. RESULTS: Of the 2,164 asthma patients identified, 184 (9%) were concordant with guideline recommendation for medication use for severe asthma (Guideline-Concordant-Severe: GCS patients). Of these, 56 (30%) had elevated EOS. A significantly greater proportion of GCS patients with elevated EOS compared to normal EOS patients (0.1 vs 0.02, p = 0.011) and time to hospitalization and hospitalization cost compared to the group with normal EOS [834.3 days vs. 749.6 days (p = 0.03) and $9,092 vs. $6,532 (p = 0.02)]. Logistic regression showed that patients with elevated EOS had greater likelihood of admissions during follow-up (OR: 2.61, p = 0.03) and hospitalization (OR: 5.89, p = 0.001). CONCLUSIONS: In the current Canadian asthma population, patients with severe asthma with treatments concordant with ERS/ATS guidelines, those with elevated EOS experience frequent hospital admissions and greater cost compared to those with normal EOS.

IMPACT OF PHARMACISTS-LED INTERVENTIONS TO ASSESS KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION AMONG TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS IN PAKISTAN: AN INSIGHT FROM A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED NON-CLINICAL TRIAL

OBJECTIVES: To assess the impact of pharmacists-led non-clinical interventions on knowledge, attitude and perception of patients regarding tuberculosis (TB) patients in Pakistan. METHODS: A randomized controlled non-clinical trial was piloted on PTB patients under the supervision of registered pharmacists whereby PTB patients received non-clinical interventionombined with clinical interventions regarding knowledge, attitude and perception on TB. Self-administered questionnaires used and demographic and characteristics of the patients were determined by means of descriptive statistics. RESULTS: was analyzed using SPSS 21.0. Comparison between trial group and control group was done with the help of inferential statistics. CONCLUSIONS: The pharmacist-led, non-clinical intervention caused a significant improvement in PTB patients’ knowledge, attitude and perception scores. This study highlights pharmacists’ need and their significantly important role towards better patient care and education. These findings are considered useful for better disease management and control.

TREATMENT OUTCOMES OF SMEAR POSITIVE PULMONARY TB CASES REGISTERED IN TB PATIENTS IN QUETTA

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this study was to examine the treatment outcomes of smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) patients registered for the first quarter of 2012. Tuberculosis treatment outcomes were assessed according to WHO guidelines. The descriptive statistics was used to present the demographic and disease related information. Inferential statistics was used to the evaluation relationship among study variables. All analyses were conducted using SPSS. RESULTS: Out of the 131 TB patients (67 males and 64 females). Majority of the patients were in the age group 18-47 (73.7%). High percentage of the patients had successful treatment with treatment outcome “completed and cured” were 65% (n=74), whereas, death occurred in only 5.3% (n=7) of patients. Demographic characteristics age was one determining factor