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PERSISTENCE WITH TESTOSTERONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY
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OBJECTIVES: The aim of this study was to compare persistence with testosterone replacement therapy (TRT) among patients with low testosterone levels. Persistence was defined as not changing treatment during the index period. Patients on replacement therapy before the index period were excluded from the analysis. This study is part of a broader study assessing key outcomes of testosterone therapy. METHODS: This was a retrospective analysis of data from the IMS®Health American Prescription Claims (APC) database, a large sample of prescription claims from more than 200 million enrollees in the United States. Persistence was defined as treatment compliance over a one-year period. RESULTS: Overall, 22% of patients who started TRT in 2010 were persistent with their initial TRT at 24 months from initiation. There was a general decrease in persistence over time among all patients, with 18% of patients being persistent at 24 months. However, there was a significant difference in persistence between patients with low testosterone levels (~27%) and those with normal testosterone levels (~15%). CONCLUSIONS: This study highlights the importance of persistence in maintaining the effectiveness of testosterone therapy. Further research is needed to identify factors influencing persistence and to develop strategies to enhance persistence.