



Economic burden of the adverse events during treatment of metastatic breast cancer (mBC) HR+/HER2- patients in Brazilian Private Healthcare System

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Background

The most common breast tumors are those that are HR+ and HER2- per American Society of Clinical Oncology/College of American Pathologists guidelines (ASCO/CAP) guidelines.^{1,2} The preferred cornerstone of treatment is iCDK4/6, given commonly in combination with endocrine therapies.^{3,4} Patients with tumors that have progressed on endocrine therapy and/or are not eligible for endocrine therapy had limited treatment options beyond chemotherapy until the arrival of antibody-drug conjugates, a new and promising class of treatment in this setting.³

Objectives

Treatment of mBC leads to various adverse events (AEs) which burden patients and the healthcare system. This study will identify the cost of managing grade 3 or higher AEs associated with mBC HR+/ HER2- treatment available to patients who have progressed on endocrine therapy and received at least one line of chemotherapy.

Methodology

The treatments were selected based on the NCCN 2025⁵ and SBOC 2024⁶ guidelines, excluding endocrine and target therapies. Then, AE grade ≥ 3 with frequency of $\geq 2\%$ for each therapy was identified in pivotal studies referenced by guidelines⁷⁻¹⁶. AE management costs were estimated using a micro-costing approach, information from MASCC¹⁷, MOC¹⁸, label and scientific articles to determine the procedures required to manage each AE per patient. Procedures costs were extracted from the D-TISS¹⁹ database, CBHPM²⁰ and PRÓSER²¹ reference price list and CMED drug list price²². The Unidas Report (2023)²³ was used for daily inpatient data, while Borba et al. (2023)²⁴ was referenced for daily outpatient data. The prices were adjusted according to the IPCA 2024²⁵. All data was validated by a clinical oncologist.

Results

Based on chemotherapy and ADCs treatment options recommended by the guidelines for mBC HR (+) HER2(-), a total of 28 grade ≥ 3 AEs were identified. The average cost of managing these AEs was US\$ 962.22 (range: US\$ 43.04 to US\$ 6,320.11). Hematological AEs had a higher mean management cost (US\$ 1,511.00 – Fig. 1) compared to non-hematological AEs (US\$ 779.29 – Fig. 2).

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Figure 1. Management costs of Hematological AEs. Cost (US\$)*

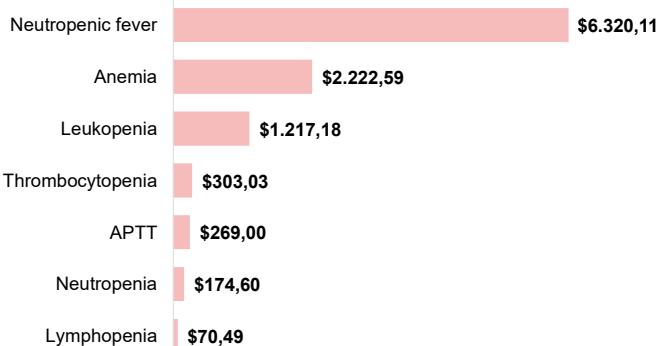
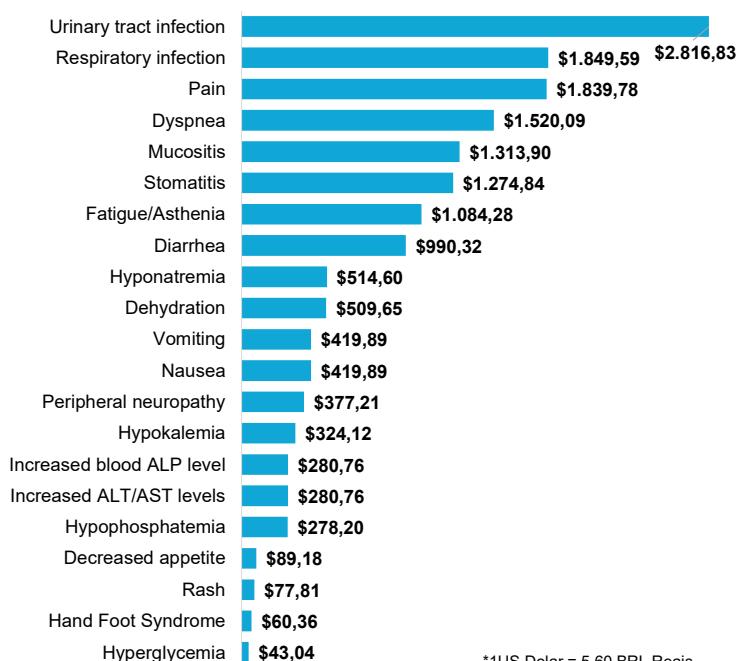


Figure 2. Management costs of Non-hematological AEs. Cost (US\$)*



*1US Dollar = 5.60 BRL Reais

Conclusion

In the current treatment of mBC HR+/HER2-, a significant cost was identified associated with managing grade ≥ 3 AEs, especially with hematological AEs from the perspective of the Brazilian private healthcare system.

