



HEALTHCARE RESOURCE USE IN HEADACHE SPECIALIZED CENTERS TO MANAGE MIGRAINE PORTUGUESE PATIENTS WHO HAVE FAILED PREVIOUS PROPHYLACTIC TREATMENTS

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Podium presentation at ISPOR Europe 2019, 2-6 Nov 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark



Background

- Migraine is a **common neurological disorder**: prevalence of **20.6%** in Portugal¹
- Migraine is the **4th** leading cause of **disability** in Portugal²
- Literature suggests that people with migraine have **increased healthcare resource use** particularly the difficult-to-treat patients²
- Evidence about migraine-related **healthcare resource use is scarce** in Portugal

References: 1. Global Burden of Disease. Available at <https://gbd2016.healthdata.org>; 2. Portugal: The Nation's Health 1990-2016; 3. Silberstein et al. Health care Resource Utilization and Migraine Disability Along the Migraine Continuum Among Patients Treated for Migraine. Headache. 2018 Nov;58(10):1579-1592.

Research questions

- What healthcare resources are used to manage migraine difficult-to-treat patients in Portugal?
- Does healthcare resource use increase with number of previous prophylactic treatment failures?
- Are there any differences in HCRU between patients recruited in private versus public hospitals?

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Methods

- **BECOME* study:** Burden of migraine in specialized headache Centres treating patients with prophylactic treatment failure.
- **Design:** Observational, descriptive, cross-sectional study conducted across 17 European countries/Israel (Nov2017-Aug2018)
- **Participants:**
 - Age 18-65 years
 - Attending headache specialized centers
 - Migraine diagnosis (ICHD-3)
 - ≥ 4 monthly migraine days
 - Evidence of ≥ 1 prophylactic treatment failure over last 5 years
- **Portuguese sample**
- **6 headache specialized centres (3 public/3 private)**



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Methods

- **Self-reported HCRU**
 - Hospitalization
 - Emergency room
 - Neurology visits
 - GP visits
 - Hospital and office-based non-medical visits
 - Imaging
 - Current treatments
- **Annualized HCRU**
- **Descriptive analysis**

12. In the past **3 months**, how many times:

a. Has the patient had to consult their primary care physician (general practitioner) about their headache?

b. Has the patient seen their neurologist about their headache?

c. Has the patient consulted any other specialist either related to or unrelated to their headache?

d. Has the patient consulted any alternative **office-based** practitioners (excluding hospital practitioners) for their headache?

Times for psychologist

Times for acupuncturist

Times for homeopathist

Times for physiotherapist

Times for reflexologist

Times for chiropractist

Times for osteopathist

Times for dietary adviser

13. In the past **3 months**, how many times:

a. Has the patient been seen by **any other hospital practitioners?**

Times for psychologist

Times for acupuncturist

Times for homeopathist

Times for physiotherapist

14. In the **last year**, how many times:

a. Have they visited the emergency department about their headache/migraine?

b. Have they had a CT scan performed to investigate their headache/migraine?

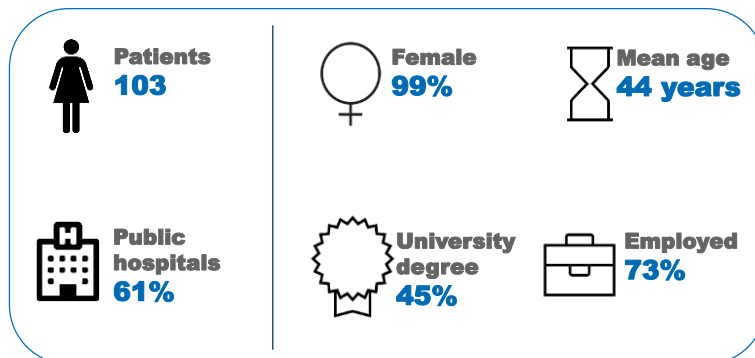
c. Have they had a MRI performed to investigate their headache/migraine?

d. Have they been admitted as an inpatient because of their migraine?

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Results

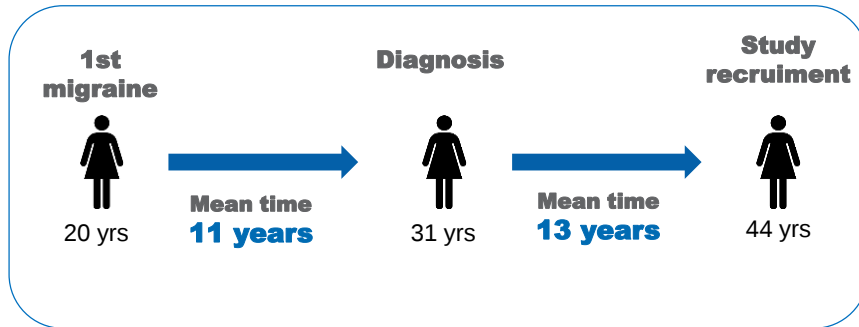
Characteristics



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Results

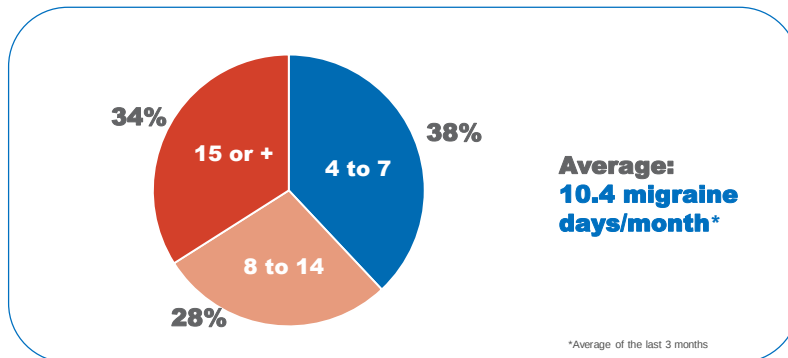
Time to diagnosis and duration of disease



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Results

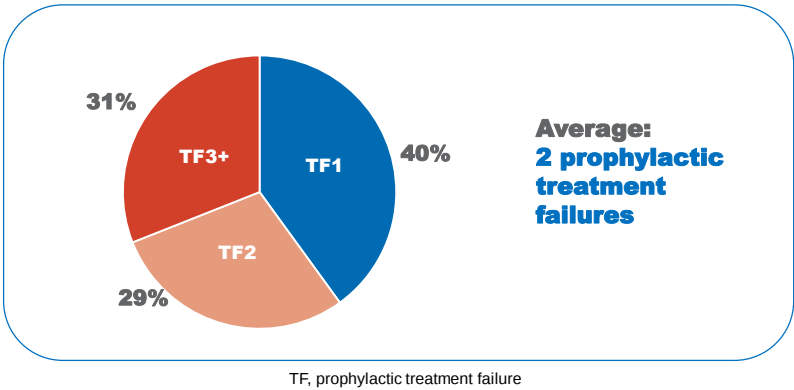
Monthly migraine days



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Results

Prophylactic treatment failures



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Results



Visits/year

% of patients	Mean/user ^b	Mean/patient
100% to neurology visits	▶ 3.5 visits	▶ 3.5 visits
16% went to GP	▶ 5.5 visits	▶ 0.9 visits
7% to hospital non-medical visits*	▶ 27 visits	▶ 2 visits
11% to office-based non-medical visits*	▶ 20 visits	▶ 2 visits

GP, General Practitioner
*Psychology, physiotherapy, nutrition, nurse, acupuncture and osteopathy.
^bAnnualized based on the answer to "In the past 3 months, ..."

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Results



ER and hospitalization/year

% of patients	Mean/user	Mean/patient
37% were admitted at ER	▶ 3 times	▶ 1 visit
3% were hospitalized	▶ 2 times	▶ 0.06 hosp

ER, emergency room

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Results



Exams/year

% of patients	Mean/user	Mean/patient
11% performed MRI	▶ 1 time	▶ 0.1 MRI
25% performed CT scan	▶ 1.4 times	▶ 0.4 CT

MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; CT, computerized tomography

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Results



Current treatments

% of patient	Mean/patient	
87% acute treatment	▶ 1.7 drugs	▶ 70% analgesics 50% triptans
67% prophylactic treatment	▶ 1.6 drugs	▶ 29% antidepressants 29% antiepileptics 25% betablockers 9% botulinum toxin

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Results

Healthcare resource use by number of prophylactic treatment failures

Mean/patient/year	TF1 (n=41)	TF2+ (n=62)	TF3+ (n=32)	TF1 vs TF3+
Hospitalization	0.0	0.1	0.2	↗
Emergency	1.0	1.1	1.4	↗
Neurology visits	2.6	4.1	5.9	↗
Hospital non-medical visits	2.1	1.6	3.1	↗
Office-based non-medical visits	0.2	0.8	1.6	↗
GP visits	1.1	0.7	0.4	↘
MRI	0.5	0.2	0.3	↘
CT scan	0.1	0.1	0.1	=

*Psychology, physiotherapy, nutrition, nurse, acupuncture and osteopathy.
GP, general practitioner; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; CT, computerized tomography; TF, treatment failure

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Results

Healthcare resource use by type of hospital

Mean/participant/year	Public hospitals (n=63)	Private hospitals (n=40)	Public vs private
Hospitalization	0.0	0.2	↗
Emergency	1.0	1.2	↗
Neurologist visits	3.1	4.1	↗
Hospital non-medical visits*	1.1	2.9	↗
Office-based non-medical visits*	0.2	1.2	↗
GP visit	0.9	0.8	↘
MRI	0.1	0.1	=
CT scan	0.3	0.3	=

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GP, general practitioner; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; CT, computerized tomography

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Conclusions

- Healthcare resource use related with migraine in difficult-to-treat patients in Portugal will be useful in to conduct economic analyses
- Healthcare resource use due to migraine seems to increase with number of prophylactic treatment failures
 - higher healthcare need in more difficult-to-treat patients
- Resource use except imaging and GP visits seems slightly higher in participants recruited in private hospitals vs public hospitals ► analyses should be performed to understand populations are homogeneous
- Study limitations include self-reported HCRU (recall bias) and limited sample size to perform inference around subgroup and multivariate analyses

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Acknowledgments

- **Steering Committee:** Prof. Patricia Pozo-Rosich, Barcelona, Spain; Dr. Christian Lucas, Lille, France; Dr. David Watson, Aberdeen, Scotland; Dr. Charly Gaul, Königstein im Taunus, Germany; Prof. Paolo Martelletti, Rome, Italy
- **Principal Study Investigators:** Prof. Isabel Pavão Martins (CHLN, Hospital de Santa Maria, Lisboa), Prof. Raquel Gouveia (Hospital da Luz, Lisboa), Dra. Liliana Pereira (Hospital Garcia de Orta, Almada), Dr. Paulo Coelho (ULSM Hospital Pedro Hispano, Matosinhos), Dr. Martinho Pimenta (Hospital CUF Infante Santo, Lisboa), Prof. Joaquim Ferreira (Centro Neurológico Sénior, Torres Vedras) for
- **Study coordinators, nurses and other hospital staff**

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Thank you