

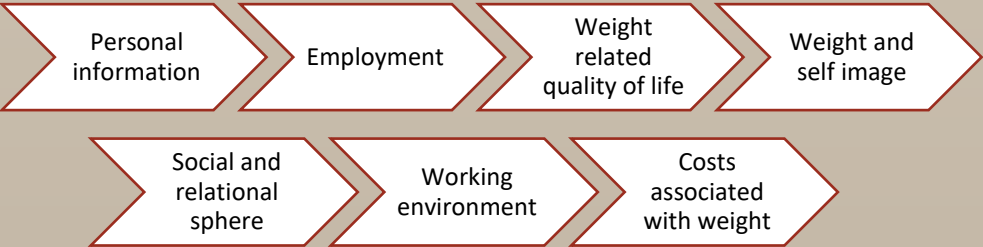
WEIGHT-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE AND LOSS OF PRODUCTIVITY IN THE SCHIZOPHRENIC PATIENT

Paoletti M¹, Marcellusi A¹, Mennini FS¹, Ragonese A², Brugnoli R³, Ducci G⁴

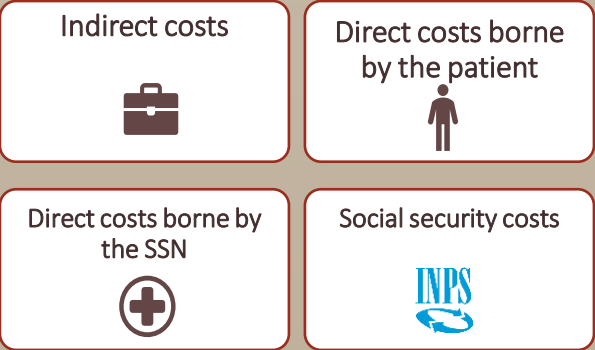
1 Economic Evaluation and HTA (EEHTA CEIS), Department of Economics and Finance, Faculty of Economics, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, Rome, Italy. 2 Clinical Psychologist, Psychotherapist, Italy. 3 Department of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Sense Organs (NeSMOS), Faculty of Medicine and Psychology, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. 4 Department of Mental Health, ASL Roma 1, Rome, Italy.

OBJECTIVES: This work was proposed as a pilot survey aimed at testing the hypothesis that overweight and obesity have an impact on the quality of life (QoL) of schizophrenic patients and are consequently associated with a loss of productivity.

METHODS:
An ad hoc questionnaire was developed and presented to patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia treated in two centers in the Lazio region (Department of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Sense Organs (NeSMOS), Faculty of Medicine and Psychology, Sapienza University of Rome; Department of Mental Health, ASL Roma 1, Rome).
The questions were divided into 7 sections:



Through the possible answers, it was possible to estimate the following cost items:



RESULTS:
To date, the sample is composed of 30 patients. 69% of patients were overweight (45%) or obese (24%) (Figure 1).
62.1% of respondents discontinued drug treatment for fear of gaining weight (Figure 2) and 4% indicated reducing therapy as an aid in weight management.
The quality of life was rated on average 5.3 on a scale of 1 to 10: it was rated as low from 71% of obese patients, 33% of overweight patients and 22% of normal weight patients.
Regarding costs (Figure 3), the overall average **cost per patient** belonging to the sample was estimated to be € **3,313.44**. The largest share (75%) is attributable to social security costs. Early data indicate that the cost of a patient with a high BMI (body mass index) is about 4 times higher than that of a normal weight patient.

Figure 1. Weight condition

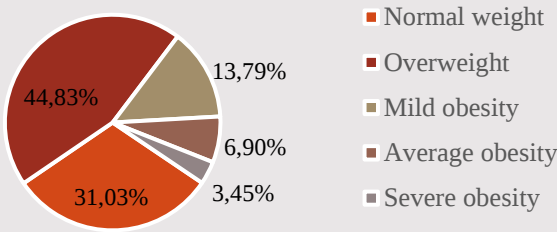


Figure 2. ”Have you ever stopped taking drug therapy for fear that it would make you gain weight?”

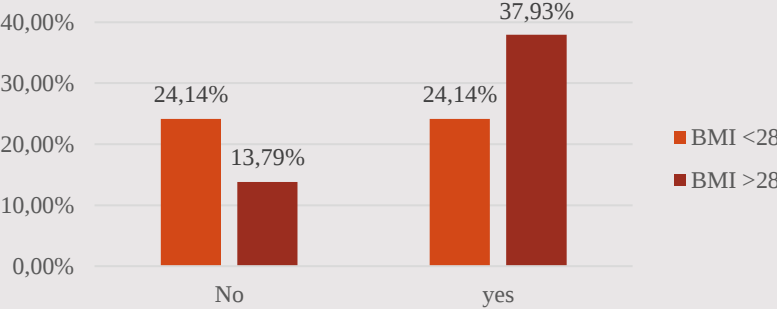
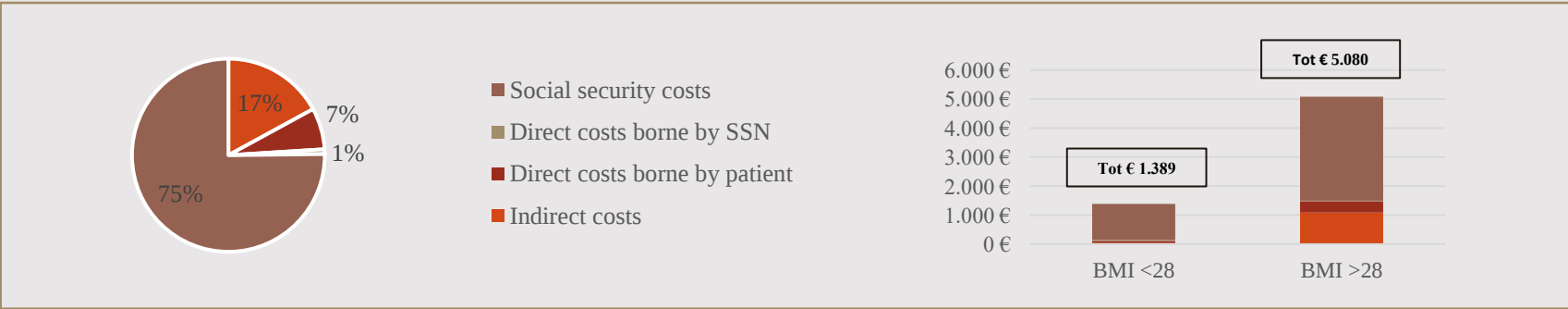


Figure 3. Cost per patient



CONCLUSION: The presence of obesity among individuals with schizophrenia is associated with low levels of QoL that may cause poor adherence or premature discontinuation of treatment. By collecting a more representative sample at national level, we will be able to draw more statistically robust conclusions.