

Cost impact of managing multiple sclerosis patients in a private health insurance company in Brazil

Cód. aceitação

Unimed 
Campinas

Alves Junior JM, Prota FE, Martinelli JCB, Chrispim A, Serpeloni M, Barreto II, Christoforo FF, Nascimento BM, Ferreira MM. Unimed Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brazil. jmalves@unimedcampinas.com.br

INTRODUCTION

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an inflammatory demyelinating disease of immune-mediated origin that affects the central nervous system. On a global scale, around 2.8 million people live with MS, and in Brazil it is estimated that approximately 40 thousand individuals carry the disease, with a prevalence of 8.7 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. The most common form of MS is Relapsing Remitting, which accounts for around 85% of all diagnosed cases. MS manifests itself through a wide range of symptoms, including extreme fatigue, muscle weakness, mobility limitations and cognitive challenges, among others, significantly impacting patients' quality of life and daily activities. Often, these symptoms can lead to absence from work and changes in family dynamics, often requiring the establishment of a broader support network. Furthermore, the direct and indirect impact of the disease is not just limited to the affected individual, but also has notable social implications, especially when MS affects people of working age. However, it is important to highlight that, with appropriate treatment, it is possible to control the progression of the disease and maintain patients' quality of life. This study focuses on analyzing the financial impact of MS patients on a private health insurance company in Brazil, contributing to a more complete understanding of the challenges faced by those dealing with this condition.

OBJECTIVE

To assess the cost impact of managing multiple sclerosis (MS) patients and the importance of this control within a private healthcare provider in Brazil.

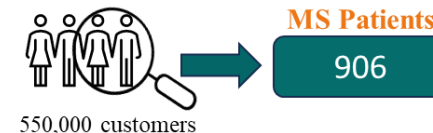
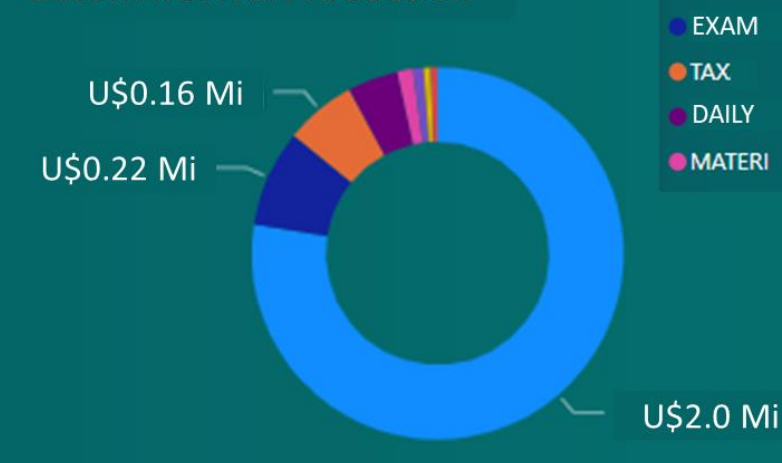
METHODS

All data inherent to MS patients were extracted from the operator's database. The period considered was the year of 2022. The variables evaluated were: number of consultations, daily hospital stay, exams performed and consumption of high-cost drugs (Ocrelizumab, Alentuzumab and Natalizumab).

RESULTS

According to the database, 906 patients with MS were found (CID G35). These patients cost the operator in the year 2022 the amount of U\$2.667.344,45. Of these patients, 134 used high-cost medication to control MS, representing 77.7% of all expenses (U\$2.072.016,43). Among the drugs listed, it was observed that U\$1.452.842,31 were spent on Ocrelizumab (43% of patients), U\$341.132,71 on Natalizumab (24.6% of patients) and U\$167.257,11 on Alentuzumab (3% of patients). The impact of carrying out related tests corresponded to 8.5% (U\$226.851,48) of all included costs. For daily rates corresponding to hospitalizations, the percentage was 4.3% (U\$114.239,41) and consultations represented only 0.6% (U\$16.863,70). Other general costs accounted for 8.9% (U\$237.373,42), but not of interest for this analysis.

Cost x Medical Production



Financial impact in 2022: U\$2.667.344,45

CONCLUSION

The results reflect the need for suitable attention to this public, especially in primary care programs. As noted, the bearer of active and recurrent disease represents the greatest cost impact, approximately 78% of the total, due to the use of high-cost medications. The results also corroborate the need to incorporate new therapies that can bring, in addition to better disease control, a lower overall cost for all variables.

REFERENCES

Ministério da Saúde. Relatório de recomendação: Cladribina oral no tratamento de pacientes com esclerose múltipla remittente-recorrente altamente ativa. 2022. https://www.gov.br/conitec/pt-br/midias/consultas/relatorios/2022/20220414_relatorio_cladribina_cp_23.pdf/view.

Giovannoni G, Comi G, Cook S, Rammohan K, Rieckmann P, Soelberg Sørensen P, et. al. CLARITY Study Group. A placebo-controlled trial of oral cladribine for relapsing multiple sclerosis. N Engl J Med. 2010 Feb 4;362(5):416-26. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa0902533.

Olek M, Howard J. UpToDate 2023. Evaluation and diagnosis of multiple sclerosis in adults. https://www.uptodate.com/contents/evaluation-and-diagnosis-of-multiple-sclerosis-in-adults?search=multiple%20sclerosis&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=1