Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management

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Lifetime healthcare and long-term care use of heart failure patients in the Netherlands

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INTRODUCTION

There is little information on the lifetime healthcare costs of heart failure from time of diagnosis to death (incidence-based cost-of-illness).

METHODS

Who?

Newly diagnosed patients with heart failure defined as patients who were not hospitalized for heart failure in the 2 years prior to their index hospital admission for heart failure in 2013.

How?

We combined administrative data of the Dutch population from the National Basic Register of Hospital Care with mortality data and (long-term) care use of Statistics Netherlands in the period 2011-2020.

What?

We calculated lifetime healthcare costs since diagnosis and investigated to what extent healthcare use increases when patients approach death.

24,046 unique patients with heart failure were identified with mean age of 78.

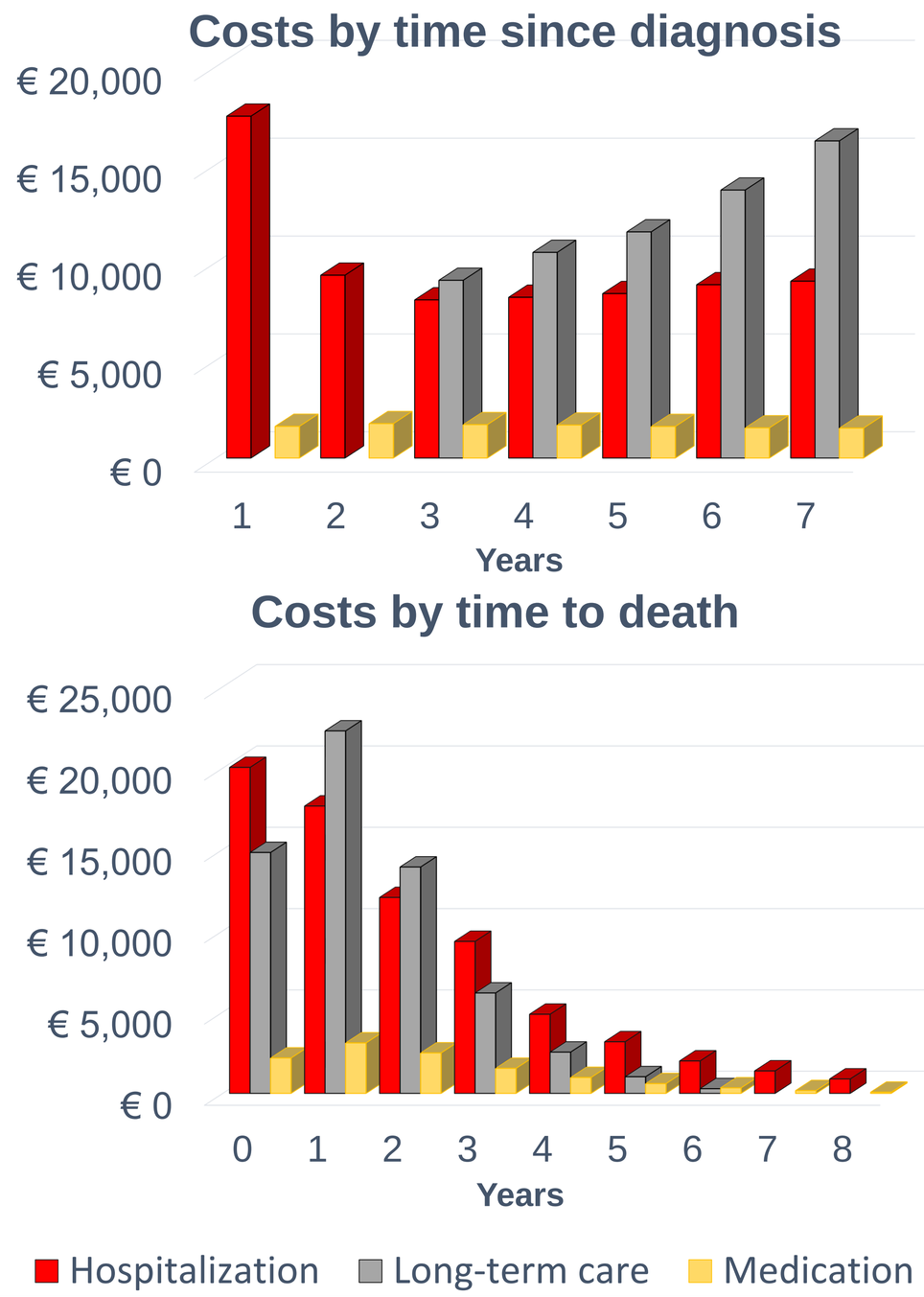
78% died during the 7-year follow-up.

On average 5.4 all-cause hospitalizations and 2.5 cardiovascular hospitalizations since diagnosis.

22% of deceased patients used long-term care between 2015 and 2020.

RESULTS

Both hospital and long-term care use strongly increased when approaching death. Lifetime costs per patient since diagnosis were €64,044.



CONCLUSION

Healthcare costs of heart failure increase with age, with the costs in the last year of life being 3.25 times higher than the average costs during the other years.

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