

Prevalence of Pulmonary Embolism Among Medicare Enrollees: A Six-Year Perspective



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BACKGROUND METHODS • Pulmonary embolism (PE) is a significant public health concern • This cross-sectional, retrospective study analyzed claims data from globally. the Medicare 5% Standard Analytical Files. Understanding trends in PE prevalence among United States All patients aged 18+ with a PE diagnosis across various healthcare Medicare beneficiaries can inform targeted interventions. settings between 2017 and 2022 were identified. National prevalence estimates were derived by adjusting observed However, recent estimates on PE trends stratified by demographic factors and healthcare settings remain limited, underscoring the counts for each population group. need for further investigation. Prevalence was calculated per 100,000 enrollees by dividing the number of individuals diagnosed with PE each year by the total number of Medicare beneficiaries enrolled that year. Annual prevalence estimates were calculated for the overall **OBJECTIVE** population and stratified by age, sex, and healthcare setting. This study investigates trends in PE prevalence among Medicare beneficiaries from 2017 to 2022, stratified by demographic factors and healthcare settings.

RESULTS

- Between 2017 and 2022, the prevalence of PE increased from 0.99% to 1.12%
- PE prevalence among patients aged 65+, ranging from 786/100,000 enrollees in 2017 to 947/100,000 enrollees in 2022.
- Female patients had a higher PE prevalence than male patients, with cases increasing from 553 to 616 / 100,000 enrollees among females and from 438 to 502 / 100,000 enrollees for males during the study period.
- Patients with PE seeking care in healthcare settings varied, with more patients in office settings (339 to 398 cases/100,000 enrollees) compared to emergency departments (59 to 79 cases/100,000 enrollees).



Figure 2. Prevalence of PE in Medicare Beneficiaries Ages 65+ per 100,000 enrollees



Figure 3. Prevalence of PE by Sex among Medicare Beneficiaries per 100,000 enrollees



Figure 4. Prevalence of PE in Office and Emergency Department (ED) per 100,000 enrollees



CONCLUSIONS

- The increasing prevalence of PE among Medicare beneficiaries underscores the need for ongoing surveillance of PE trends.
- The growing burden of PE warrants further research into the factors driving these trends and the development of targeted clinical management strategies to mitigate its impact.

LIMITATIONS

2022

- The retrospective design of the study may introduce selection bias, and the crosssectional approach limits the ability to establish causality or determine temporal relationships between variables.
- The Medicare 5% SAF reflects only a subset of Medicare beneficiaries, which may limit the generalizability of the findings.
- COVID-19 may have influenced the PE estimates; however, this analysis did not address how overlapping symptoms might affect the study results.

DISCLOSURES

This study was supported by Boston Scientific. Sue Duval is a contractor with Boston Scientific and a Professor at the University of Minnesota. Abimbola O. Williams, Luckyboy Vang, Nicholas Anderson, Wendy Wifler, and Keith M. Sterling are full-time employees of Boston Scientific.

ISPOR Europe 2024, November 17-20, 2024, Barcelona, Spain