

How expensive is a stroke in the Caribbean Region of Colombia?

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OBJECTIVES

We aimed to describe the annual direct medical costs of stroke in the Caribbean region of Colombia, 2018-2021 .

METHODS

A cross-sectional study of patients with a stroke event was conducted. We described the direct medical costs and use of health resources between 2018-2021. The analyzed patients were affiliated to a health insurer in Colombia (Mutual SER EPS) with more than 2.5 million affiliates in the Caribbean region. Mean and median cost were expressed as annual averages with their 95% confidence intervals. An American dollar's average rate of 3,981.16 COP for 12/31/2021 was used to express the cost.

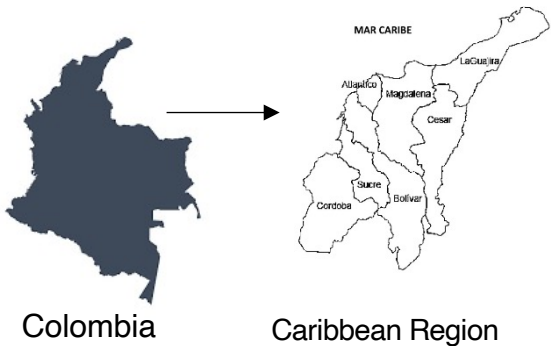


Table 1. Cohort characteristics

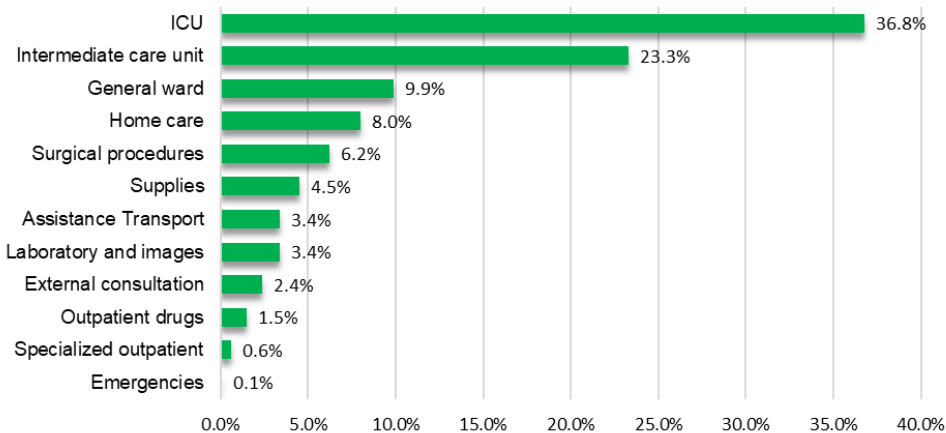
Characteristic	N = 357 ¹
Sex	
Female	187 (52.4%)
Male	170 (47.6%)
Age in years	68.9 (±16.5)
Department	
Atlántico	10 (2.8%)
Bolívar	210 (58.8%)
Córdoba	34 (9.5%)
Magdalena	16 (4.5%)
Sucre	87 (24.4%)
Affiliation regime	
Contributory	8 (2.2%)
Subsidized	349 (97.8%)
BMI	24.0 (±4.2)
¹ n (%); Mean (±SD)	

RESULTS

Table 2. Direct medical costs by components

Component	n	Mean	CI95%-Lower	CI95%-Upper	Median	IQR 25%	IQR 75%
External consultation	36	\$238.6	\$189.3	\$287.9	\$135.6	\$135.6	\$406.9
Specialized outpatient	149	\$61.9	\$44.1	\$79.6	\$22.4	\$14.0	\$44.6
Home care	111	\$809.2	\$606.1	\$1,012.4	\$354.9	\$306.1	\$1,064.7
Laboratory and images	102	\$339.7	\$253.2	\$426.1	\$105.4	\$75.3	\$415.2
Outpatient drugs	215	\$150.4	\$105.5	\$195.2	\$34.9	\$12.0	\$105.6
Supplies	5	\$459.7	\$327.4	\$592.0	\$328.4	\$328.4	\$656.7
Surgical procedures	10	\$624.9	\$290.4	\$959.3	\$426.9	\$70.8	\$1,022.9
Assistance transport	40	\$342.9	\$255.2	\$430.6	\$203.7	\$197.4	\$356.5
Emergencies	27	\$13.2	\$11.6	\$14.7	\$10.9	\$10.9	\$11.2
General ward	56	\$1,000.3	\$883.6	\$1,116.9	\$972.9	\$972.9	\$972.9
Intermediate care unit	23	\$2,351.1	\$2,190.0	\$2,512.2	\$2,253.1	\$2,253.1	\$2,253.1
ICU	16	\$3,718.8	\$3,359.0	\$4,078.6	\$3,500.1	\$3,500.1	\$3,500.1
Total cost	357	\$463.8	\$386.2	\$541.5	\$93.6	\$20.7	\$407.4

Figure 1. Average cost distributed by cost component (%).



CONCLUSIONS

ICU and intermediate hospitalization represent high cost of care for patient with stroke in the Caribbean region of Colombia. Home care represent almost the same cost of general hospitalization. It is recommended to continue working in prevention programs to reduce strokes and cost of care.