Background
Chronic urticaria (CU) is an idiopathic, self-limited condition of unknown etiology that affects approximately 2-3% of the population. The goal is to determine the impact of omalizumab on healthcare resource utilization in patients with urticaria.

Objective
To assess healthcare resource utilization (HCRU) among urticaria patients prior to and after omalizumab initiation in a real-world setting.

Methods
This study is a retrospective cohort study utilizing U.S. claims data from the Healthcare Integrated Research Database (HIRD) for a 11-month study period spanning 03/21/2014 to 04/20/2015.

Potential identifiers (Figure 1)
- The study included patients with ≥6 months pre-index and ≥12 months post-index healthcare insurance enrollment.
- Patients enrolled in commercial or Medicare Advantage plans during the study period.
- The inclusion criteria consisted of urticaria patients newly treated with omalizumab during the intake period (03/21/2014 through 10/31/2015) was defined as index date.

Inclusion Criteria
- Patients ≥12 years of age as of index date
- Patients with ≥6 months pre- and ≥12 months post-index healthcare insurance enrollment.
- Patients enrolled in commercial or Medicare Advantage plans during the study period.

Exclusion Criteria
- Patients with ≥6 months pre-index and ≥12 months post-index healthcare insurance enrollment.
- Patients enrolled in commercial or Medicare Advantage plans during the study period.

Statistical Analyses
- Descriptive statistics including means (standard deviation) and skewness/kurtosis for continuous and categorical data, respectively, were reported.
- Inferential analyses were conducted to compare all-cause and urticaria-related HCRU within 6 months pre-index (baseline period), the 6 months post-index period, and the 7-12 months post-index period.

Results
Baseline Demographic Characteristics (Table 1)
- The study included patients with urticaria newly treated with omalizumab with a mean (SD) age of 41.5 (13.6) years, of which 70.8% were female.

Table 1. Baseline Demographic Characteristics of Urticaria Patients Newly Treated with Omalizumab (n=696)

Limitations
- The presence of a diagnosis code or a medical claim does not guarantee positive presence of a disease. As a result, HCRU for non-inclusion/ adverse events observed was not included as a inclusion/ adverse events.
- Omalizumab may not be received in a medical clinic.

Conclusions
- Study results showed that urticaria patients newly treated with omalizumab had fewer ER visits and similar hospitalizations in the post-index period, when compared to those at baseline, in a real-world clinical setting.

Disclosures
- The online version includes all authors.

References

Disclosures
- Study funding provided by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.
- Mahadev Khandelwal, Steven Jones, Karin K., Mueller, Timo, and Justin L. Jordan are employees of Healthcare, Inc., an independent research organization that received funding from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation for the conduct of this study. Abigail B. Kure and Robert B. Harn are employees of Healthcare, Inc., and may have received personal compensation related to their employment, under contract with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation to provide consulting services to the funder, for some of the research, and some of the research, education, and service organizations to which they contribute on a consultant basis. S. Ramalingam, R. Harn, and C. Meseguer are employees of Healthcare, Inc., and may have received personal compensation related to their employment, under contract with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation to provide consulting services to the funder, for some of the research, and some of the research, education, and service organizations to which they contribute on a consultant basis. S. Ramalingam, R. Harn, and C. Meseguer are employees of Healthcare, Inc., and may have received personal compensation related to their employment, under contract with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation to provide consulting services to the funder, for some of the research, and some of the research, education, and service organizations to which they contribute on a consultant basis. H. L. Weiss, A. P. Keyes, S. T. M., and A. M. S. Efficacy and safety of omalizumab in patients with chronic urticaria who exhibit elevated total IgE levels. J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2015;3(5):910-916.
- Steven L. Beck is an employee of Healthcare, Inc., an independent research organization that received funding from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation for the conduct of the study.

Conclusions
- Study results showed that urticaria patients newly treated with omalizumab had fewer ER visits and similar hospitalizations in the post-index period, when compared to those at baseline, in a real-world clinical setting.

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The observed increase in post-index outpatient and pharmacy claims likely reflect the management of conditions that were unmanaged in a healthcare provider setting.