AT A GLANCE

South Korea's HIRA health insurance claims data is a valuable data resource for satisfying numerous real world health objectives.

However, the HIRA database has some data analysis limitations that you'll need to overcome to achieve success.

Kantar Health Korea offers the know-how when it comes to successfully using and

THE CHALLENGE

A leading pharmaceutical company wanted to compare the demographic characteristics and the proportion of comorbidities between patients of a target disease with a matched cohort of patients without the target disease using a healthcare real world database in South Korea. They also wanted to examine treatment patterns and healthcare resource use (HCRU) over a 10-year period.

Although health insurance claims data compiled by South Korea's Health Insurance and Review Assessment (HIRA) is a valuable source of healthcare real world data, the resource has many limitations regarding data analysis since the data was not loaded for this purpose.

The company engaged Kantar Health Korea because of its expertise in data analysis, protocol development, IRB approval, and reporting services that cover the entire scope of research projects from the start to the end of studies.

THE KANTAR HEALTH DIFFERENCE

With the expansion of civilian accessibility to South Korea's HIRA health insurance claims data five years ago, data analysis boundaries were widened for the health and medical-related database. Today, this access is being used to satisfy numerous real world health objectives, and target study areas are being expanded and diversified.

Kantar Health Korea has the know-how when it comes to using and optimizing the HIRA database, as we've built up our experience by communicating with HIRA officials and analyzing HIRA data. From this groundwork, and our consultation with key opinion leaders (KOL), we were able to establish accurate patient definitions and proper data settings for the analysis.

To examine the 10-year data trend requested, we analyzed targeted data from 2007, 2011 and 2016. And, since it was a comorbidity study, we also brought over the corresponding patients' annual medical information. Once that was completed, we suggested an appropriate data extraction procedure for the matched control group setup, as well as an analysis method that relates to the structure of the database.

When using the HIRA database, patient definition can be the most important and most difficult aspect to meet. In this study, where there were many comorbidities and concomitant medications of keen interest, we had numerous meetings with KOLs, organized the definitions by searching published papers, checked the number of patients affected by each disease, and continued with our efforts to set up the proper definitions within the feasible boundaries.

A full statistical analysis plan was written about the analysis and provided to our client.