Humanistic and economic impacts of hepatitis C infection in the United States.


Source

Health Sciences Practice, Kantar Health, New York, NY 10010, USA.
marco.dibonaventura@kantarhealth.com

Abstract

OBJECTIVE:

Prior research examining the effect of hepatitis C virus (HCV) on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and healthcare costs is flawed because non-patient controls were not adequately comparable to HCV patients. The current study uses a propensity score matching methodology to address the following research question: is the presence of diagnosed hepatitis C (HCV) associated with poorer health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and greater healthcare resource use?

METHODS:

Using data from the 2009 US National Health and Wellness Survey, patients who reported a HCV diagnosis (n = 695) were compared to propensity-matched controls (n = 695) on measures of HRQoL and healthcare resource use. All analyses applied sampling weights to project to the US population.

RESULTS:

HCV patients reported significantly lower levels of HRQoL relative to the matched-control group, including the physical component score (39.6 vs. 42.7, p < 0.0001) and health utilities (0.63 vs. 0.66, p < 0.0001). The number of emergency room visits (0.59 vs. 0.44, p < 0.05) and physician visits (7.7 vs. 5.9, p < 0.05) in the past 6 months were significantly higher for the HCV group relative to matched controls.

CONCLUSION:

The results of this study suggest that HCV represents a substantial burden on patients by having a significant and clinically-relevant impact on key dimensions of HRQoL as well as on utilization of healthcare resources, the latter of which would result in increased direct medical costs.

LIMITATIONS:

Due to limitations of the internet survey approach (e.g., inability to confirm HCV diagnosis), future research is needed to confirm these findings.

PMID:21091098 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]