ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVES: Analyzing spondyloarthritis (SpA) is a progressive, intractable rheumatologic disease with worldwide prevalence of 0.15%. Since January 2012, the Brazilian Agency for Supplementary Healthcare (ANS, Agência Nacional de Saúde Suplementar) launched the coverage of intravenous biological drugs (BD) mandatory for patients with AS, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and Crohn’s disease in the private healthcare system (PHS). This present study reveals real-world data on the patterns of care for AS in Brazilian PHS.

METHODS: We retrieved all requests of BD for patients with AS admitted between January/2012 to December/2015 on Evidências Credibilidade Científica, a Brazilian healthcare database. This database receives inputs from patients from 46 different PHS, from all Brazilian regions. This is a retrospective study, with data collected from Evidências Credibilidade Científica database, from the regulatory organ issued in January of 2012. BDs were indicated for selected patients, according to the prescription criteria before patients are put on unnecessary treatment with BD. This approval is given to patients with rheumatology diagnosis and approved by a regulatory organ. BDs were approved by the patients’ medical institution.

RESULTS: We found 164 male (34.8%) and 30 females (65.2%), mean age of 46.7±13 years (range from 14 to 76 years).

Gender: 65.2% female

Statistical evaluation: All variables were analyzed for normality. The mean age of patients was 46.7±13 years (range from 14 to 76 years).

Disease Characteristics: AS was the likeliest diagnosis in 52.2% of cases. In 13% of cases, the information was insufficient to establish a diagnosis. For other patients, who could not have diagnosis of AS confirmed, even though some were already on 2nd or 3rd line therapy with BD, PHS must emphasize the correct use of diagnostic criteria before patients are put on unnecessary treatment with BD.

DISCUSSION:

“...Despite the femoral neck is narrower at 25 years, it can also affect the spine and other locations...”

Some treatments, such as immune biological drugs (BD), recommended by international as well as local specialty societies can decrease the level of disease activity and improve the quality of life of a patient.4,5

Although effective, treatment with BD is costly.7,8

Some diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), benefit from BD treatment because they are treated by patients from different PHS, from intravenous specialists, such as neurology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, physiotherapy, etc.

Data regarding requests for BD in the treatment of AS were retrieved from January/2012 to December/2015.

After patient de-identification, information were collected on:

Demographics: gender, age, geographical provenience

Disease Characteristics: diagnostic criteria for AS

Treatment: type of BD, line of treatment, reason for change in BD

REFERENCES


