BACKGROUND

Chronic urticaria, also known as urticaria, is a common chronic disease where urticarial plaques develop on the skin. It can affect people of all ages and can vary in severity. The prevalence of chronic urticaria is approximately 0.2% in the general population. Chronic urticaria can be acute or chronic and is characterized by recurrent eruptions of red, itchy, raised areas on the skin. The disease can affect various areas of the body, including the face, hands, and feet. Chronic urticaria is a significant cause of disability and can lead to considerable financial burden and reduced quality of life.

METHODS

Data were obtained through the US National Health and Wellness Survey (NHWS). NHWS is a large (n~75,000 respondents/year) cross sectional survey whose respondents are selected through random sampling within a large general survey panel to match the US adult population in terms of age, sex, and ethnicity. To minimize the number of those with chronic hives, all respondents from the 2010-2012 annual surveys were included; the most recent response was used for those participating in more than one year.

Objectives:

1. To determine the point prevalence of chronic urticaria in the US population.
2. To assess the burden of chronic urticaria from the US patients’ perspective.
3. To determine the characteristics of patients treated for chronic urticaria.

RESULTS

Respondents currently treated for chronic hives had similar levels of mortality-related comorbidities as matched controls but suffered from a wider variety of physical and mental health conditions.

CONCLUSION

Chronic urticaria substantially impacts US patients’ wellbeing, healthcare use, work productivity and functional capacity in their daily lives.

The impact of CIU is likely to be similar but additional research is needed among patients with confirmed diagnosis.

REFERENCES

2. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; 2Kantar Health; 2Novartis Pharma AG. The Burden of Chronic Urticaria from the US Patients’ Perspective. 2014.