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Non-drug Healthcare Resource Use in Adult Patients with Attention-deficit/hyperactivity Disorder

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Introduction: Non-drug-related healthcare resource use represents an under-investigated contribution to the total healthcare cost of adult patients with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Objectives: To assess non-drug healthcare resource use in adult patients with ADHD undergoing pharmacotherapy.

Methods: Practising psychiatrists in Scotland, Sweden and Denmark were invited from a healthcare professional database to complete an online survey between January and August 2014. Resource use estimations were based on typical adult patients (≥18 years) diagnosed with ADHD and showing either adequate or inadequate responses to ADHD medication.

Results: Participating psychiatrists in Scotland (n=20), Sweden (n=20) and Denmark (n=15) saw a mean (standard deviation [SD]) of 10.3 (8.2), 17.8 (12.7) and 16.9 (16.5) adult patients with ADHD per month, respectively. Methylphenidate was the most commonly utilised first-line medication (74% of psychiatrists). Tables 1 and 2 show mean prescribed daily drug doses and resource use estimates.

Conclusions: Findings suggest that patients with an inadequate response to pharmacotherapy consume more non-drug healthcare resources than those with an adequate response. Whilst limited in sample size, this study provides initial data on non-drug healthcare resource use in adult ADHD.

Table 1. Daily drug dose (mg) by country. n/a, not asked.

| | Scotland (n=20) Mean (SD) | Sweden (n=20) Mean (SD) | Denmark (n=15) Mean (SD) 49.0 (19.9) | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Methylphenidate immediate release | 29.9 (13.6) | 42.2 (25.0) | | |
| Methylphenidate intermediate release | 45.7 (16.2) | 46.3 (27.2) | 51.3 (20.6) | |
| Methylphenidate extended release | 41.9 (19.3) | 52.7 (21.3) | 54.6 (16.5) | |
| Atomoxetine | 62.9 (20.5) | 60.3 (26.1) | 74.3 (11.8) | |
| Dexamfetamine | 36.7 (15.3) | 32.2 (21.1) | 38.3 (16.1) | |
| Lisdexamfetamine | n/a | 48.3 (22.1) | 51.0 (11.4) | |

Table 2. Estimated mean resource use (visits/consultations) per year per patient.

| | Scotland (n=20) Mean (SD) | | Sweden (n=20) Mean (SD) | | Denmark (n=15) Mean (SD) | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| | Adequate response | Inadequate response | Adequate response | Inadequate response | Adequate response | Inadequate response |
| General practitioner | 3.6 (2.1) | 6.4 (3.7) | <u>923</u> | 320 | 84 | (2) |
| Psychiatrist | 3.4 (2.5) | 6.6 (2.2) | 2.7 (2.1) | 6.0 (2.9) | 3.4 (2.8) | 6.4 (3.4) |
| Nurse | 2.4(3.7) | 4.0 (5.4) | 5.1 (4.1) | 7.5 (4.3) | 2.1 (2.2) | 4.5 (4.8) |
| Phone consultation | - | - | 2.8 (3.0) | 4.6 (3.7) | 2.1 (1.6) | 4.5 (4.8) |
| Psychologist | 714 | 72 <u>-</u> | 1.7 (3.0) | 3.5 (3.9) | 0.5 (1.4) | 2.5 (3.9) |
| Neurologist | 323 | 7/2 | 0.1 (0.2) | 0.1 (0.2) | 0.0(0.0) | 0.1 (0.3) |
| Social worker | | - | 0.6 (1.0) | 3.0 (3.8) | 3.5 (4.8) | 5.2 (5.8) |