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Country: **Italy**

Titel of the project: **Research project for an analysis of the social cost of Atrial Fibrillation**

Project details

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Award amount: €100,000

A study is being proposed on the social costs of the disease in the Puglia region, to evaluate the costs incurred for the treatment and the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation.

The proposed research project has as its main objective, the building of a research protocol for the evaluation of the social cost for the prevention of stroke risk in patients with AF. The studies with regard to the social costs can only assume greater significance if they manage to pursue several objectives: - To calculate the economic burden of the disease on society as a whole - To identify the major cost components and their impact on the total costs - To identify the therapeutic diagnostic treatment - To explain the variability of the costs. The rationale of the study should result in the final identification of the purpose of the study. In order to achieve this, the following must be defined:- Epidemiological data - The natural history of the disease - The current clinical practice in the regional context - The existence of guidelines or national or international standards for the clinical management of the disease - The available economic data on the cost of the disease. In order to identify the cohort of patients, the criteria for inclusion must be defined. Furthermore, the observation point through which the patient population is studied must also be defined. In Puglia there are 34 specialized centers for thrombosis, connected with a national network through the FCSA (Federation of centers for the diagnosis of thrombosis and for the monitoring of anti-thrombotic therapies). In addition, there is also an extensive network of outpatient cardiac clinics that monitor patients with AF. Actually, there are regional geriatric rehabilitation centers that monitor patients with AF who are at risk of a stroke. Finally, the network of General Practitioners may be utilized. These are the main prescribers of the preventive anticoagulant therapy. Once the sample of available facilities for the selection of patients has been identified, the cases must be identified, usually on the basis of the opinions of clinicians who suggest the more or less restrictive selection criteria, enrolling the subjects based on objective analyses. The instruments of the study (questionnaires and/or data collection sheets) are intended to collect data on utilization of the health and non-health resources, in order to calculate: Direct costs: - Cost of prevention - Personnel costs - Cost of treating post-stroke patients (treatment failure) - Cost for the treatment of adverse events - Overhead costs (specialist centers, MMG) Indirect costs:- Informal Assistance - Loss of Productivity. The expected results of the project shall be: 1. An evaluation plan that includes - A discussion with the stakeholders - The identification of the main data flows -The available evidence and its discussion, including any international HTA evaluations - The sharing of a common database of information and knowledge and its continuous updating to the working group, 2. a research protocol aimed to evaluate the social cost of the disease, 3.The publication and dissemination of the results obtained, 4.Communication and prevention campaign. For the coordination of the entire project, access to financing is requested. This will lead to the definition of funds to be allocated to the members of the working group of the Ares HTA commission and the regional working group as regard thromboembolism.

Audience

Type

- Healthcare professionals

Location

Italy, Europe