Post-Discharge Readmission Outcomes Following Hyperkalemia-Related Hospitalization

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Introduction

Hyperkalemia is a potentially life-threatening condition often caused by reduced renal function, leading to diminished ability to excrete potassium. Control hospitalizations were matched one-to-one to case hospitalizations based on:

- CKD was identified via ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes or estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) values during
- The Truven MarketScan® claims and encounters database (January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2014)

Objectives

- Given that inpatient care was the largest contributor to the incremental healthcare cost post-discharge, it is important to evaluate the readmission burden of hyperkalemia-related hospitalizations, including

Methods

Data Source

- The Truven MarketScan® claims and encounter database
- Employers, early retirees, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) beneficiaries, and Medicare-eligible retirees with employer-provided Medicare Supplemental plans

Sample Selection

- Hyperkalemia-related and non-hyperkalemia hospitalizations were selected

Sample Description

- Hyperkalemia-related hospitalizations had longer length of stay per readmission (8.1 vs. 7.1 days) and more total length inpatient days (12.4 vs. 7.2 days) compared with control hospitalizations during

Table 1. Comparison of inpatient readmissions and length of stay between matched hyperkalemia-related and non-hyperkalemia hospitalizations

Table 2. Comparison of inpatient readmissions and length of stay between matched hyperkalemia-related and non-hyperkalemia hospitalizations by comorbidity subgroups within 30 days of index discharge date

Discussion

- The previous Betts et al. study found that hyperkalemia was the leading contributor to the total healthcare cost burden

Table 3. Comparison of length of stay for hyperkalemia-related hospitalizations and matched non-hyperkalemia hospitalizations by comorbidity subgroup

Limitations

- Due to the observational design, the analyses may be affected by unobserved differences between the comparison cohorts. However,

Conclusions

- This study found that hyperkalemia-related hospitalizations had significantly higher rates of readmission as compared with

References

- The previous Betts et al. study found that hyperkalemia was the leading contributor to the total healthcare cost burden

Disclosures

- J. Michael Woolley is an employee of MarketScan, which provided data from AdTazernea for research analysis. J.H. is a former employee of AdTazernea. G.J. was fundless in this research.