Sjögren’s Syndrome within a Large US Managed Care Population

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BACKGROUND
Sjögren’s syndrome is an autoimmune condition of the exocrine glands characterized by dry mouth and dry eyes. Additionally, patients with Sjögren’s syndrome often experience fatigue and/or pain. Sjögren’s syndrome may be classified as primary (patients without an additional rheumatologic disease) or secondary (patients with an additional well-defined rheumatologic disease, such as rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus erythematosus).

OBJECTIVES
• Estimate the period prevalence of Sjögren’s syndrome
• Describe demographic, clinical, and treatment characteristics of patients with Sjögren’s syndrome

RESULTS
505 patients with Sjögren’s syndrome
• Period prevalence: 38 per 100,000 members
213 patients with active Sjögren’s syndrome
• Period prevalence: 16 per 100,000 members
90% (191 / 213) are female

METHODS
Study design:
• Cross-sectional analysis of a claims database
Data source:
• IQ Magnify private managed care organization claims database
• Includes individuals residing predominantly in 22 states
• 95% of members reside in the South or Midwest
Identification of individuals with Sjögren’s syndrome:
• Any individual with ≥1 claim with an ICD-9-CM diagnosis code for Sjögren’s syndrome (710.2)
• Active case: any individual with ≥2 claims (on separate days) with an ICD-9-CM diagnosis code for Sjögren’s syndrome

ANALYSIS
• Period prevalence:
  – Number of cases during the 1-year study period divided by the number of health plan members (1,334,758) enrolled at the midpoint of the study period
  – Expressed as the number of cases per 100,000 members

Period prevalence: 38 per 100,000 members
Period prevalence: 16 per 100,000 members

CONCLUSIONS
• Sjögren’s syndrome patients often present with symptoms beyond the ‘hallmark’ dry eyes and/or mouth, including joint disorders and “general symptoms (malaise and fatigue’, fever, sleep disturbances)
• Observed prevalence in this population is lower than estimates found in the literature and likely represents a population with active SS seeking treatment; however, the potential for misclassification of disease status must also be considered in any healthcare claims database analysis
• Sjögren’s syndrome is a significant unmet medical need with clinical burden beyond dry eyes and mouth reliant on non-specific immunomodulatory and symptomatic treatments
• Longitudinal studies of the natural history of Sjögren’s syndrome population and course of disease to ultimately better serve this often overlooked population