

気管支喘息のガイドラインによる治療の医療経済的一考察 - 気管支喘息治療における吸入ステロイド薬のインパクトの推定 -

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Discussion on the bronchial asthma therapy in the line of the guidelines from a health economic perspective: the estimates of impact of inhaled corticosteroids on the asthma treatment

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Abstract

Objectives: Inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) are the first-line medication for the treatment and management of bronchial asthma in accordance with the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) guideline. Only a few patient groups are, however, treated by ICS even though several kinds of ICS are currently available in Japan. On the basis of the aforementioned background, the aim of the study is to estimate the economic impact of active introduction of ICS on the treatment of bronchial asthma in Japan.

Design and methods: The study is a literature-based design for economic evaluation based on analysis of the outcomes of a 11-year retrospective observation carried out at a hospital in the Kansai area of Japan. A cost-consequence analysis was retrospectively conducted from the healthcare payer's viewpoint using a spreadsheet calculation method.

Results: Active introduction of ICS revealed that not only dramatic reductions of death due to severe attacks by approximately 90%, of life-threatening attacks requiring emergency medications such as short-acting inhaled β_2 -agonists by approximately 91%, and of hospital admission by approximately 80%, but also cost-saving of an annual direct cost per patient by approximately 22% were achieved.

Conclusion: It was, hence, demonstrated that ICS would have a substantially favorable impact on the treatment and management of bronchial asthma in Japan.

Key words: bronchial asthma, inhalation, corticosteroids, economics, guideline