Using Real-World Data to Assess Variations in Cost and Healthcare Utilization for Patients Diagnosed with Bladder Cancer

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BACKGROUND

• Disparities in evaluation, management, and mortality persist in patient populations where bladder cancer is less common.

• The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) conducted a claims analysis of Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with bladder cancer to assess differences in healthcare utilization and costs and to inform future provider education initiatives and better reach underserved populations.

METHODS

• ACCC convened a steering committee of multidisciplinary experts to guide claims analysis development methodology and code sets used to identify study cohorts and model variables.

• Using the CMS Medicare 100% Innovator Administrative Claims Data Set, incident patients were defined as those newly diagnosed in 2018 using a 24-month lookback to confirm no prior diagnosis.

• Classification is defined by treatment within 6 months of diagnosis: No treatment, Early Stage-treated (intravesical chemotherapy), and Late-stage (one or more claims of non-intravesical systemic therapy, radiation therapy, or major bladder surgery).

RESULTS

• 4,356 incident patients were identified: average age 77.7, 71% male, 56% no treatment, 15% early-stage treated, 28% late-stage.

• Patients diagnosed at late-stage incur 90% more out-of-pocket costs (copays, coinsurance, deductibles) in the first year following diagnosis than early-stage treated patients ($59,970 vs $5,225) and 81% higher cumulative out-of-pocket costs two years following diagnosis ($15,145 vs $8,390).

CONCLUSIONS

• Patients diagnosed with late-stage bladder cancer experience higher financial burden and need more resource-intensive services than those diagnosed at an earlier stage.

• Earlier diagnosis of bladder cancer is needed to improve patient outcomes and reduce financial burden.

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Elevated costs persist at levels higher than pre-diagnosis.

Out-of-Pocket* Financial Burden Almost Doubles for Patients with Late-Stage Diagnosis

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