

THE SOCIOECONOMIC COSTS OF OVERACTIVE BLADDER AND STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE IN KOREA

Hypothesis / aims of study

We quantified and described the economic burden of overactive bladder and stress urinary incontinence in Korea.

Study design, materials and methods

We calculated costs by identifying public and private data sources that contain population-based data on resource utilization by patients with stress urinary incontinence and overactive bladder. For estimating indirect costs (productivity loss), the human capital approach was applied. Data were collected from several institutes, including the Health Insurance Review Agency

Results

The estimated total economic cost in treating overactive bladder was 117 billion Korean won in 2006 and 145 billion Korean won in 2007. The estimated total cost in treating stress urinary incontinence was 122 billion Korean won in 2006 and 59 billion Korean won in 2007.

Interpretation of results

By quantifying the total economic costs of overactive bladder and stress urinary incontinence, this study provides an important perspective of this condition in Korea. Because the average age of the Korean population is rapidly increasing, this study provides important information on the direct and indirect costs of overactive bladder and stress urinary incontinence for an aging society.

Concluding message

Overactive bladder (OAB) and stress urinary incontinence are devastating condition that incurs substantial costs for individuals, society and health care providers in Korea.

<i>Specify source of funding or grant</i>	no specific funding
<i>Is this a clinical trial?</i>	Yes
<i>Is this study registered in a public clinical trials registry?</i>	No
<i>What were the subjects in the study?</i>	HUMAN
<i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i>	No
<i>This study did not require ethics committee approval because</i>	It is epidemiologic study analysing direct and indirect cost of overactive bladder and stress urinary incontinence in the general population of Korea. So this study did not require ethics committee approval
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	No