

REVIEW

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Asthma costs and social impact

Carlos Nunes^{1*}, Ana Margarida Pereira² and Mário Morais-Almeida²

Abstract

In recent decades, both asthma prevalence and incidence have been increasing worldwide, not only due to the genetic background, but mainly because of the effect of a wide number of environmental and lifestyle risk factors. In many countries noncommunicable diseases, like asthma, are not yet considered a healthcare priority. This review will analyze and discuss disparities in asthma management in several countries and regions, such as access to healthcare human resources and medications, due to limited financial capacity to develop strategies to control and prevent this chronic disease.

This review tries to explore the social and economic burden of asthma impact on society. Although asthma is generally accepted as a costly illness, the total costs to society (direct, indirect and intangible asthma costs) are difficult to estimate, mainly due to different disease definitions and characterizations but also to the use of different methodologies to assess the asthma socio-economic impact in different societies.

The asthma costs are very variables from country to country, however we can estimate that a mean cost per patient per year, including all asthmatics (intermittent, mild, moderate and severe asthma) in Europe is \$USD 1,900, which seems lower than USA, estimated mean \$USD 3,100.

Keywords: Asthma, Burden, Control, Costs, Morbidity, Mortality, Socio-economic

Background

In recent decades, both asthma prevalence and incidence have been increasing worldwide, not only due to the genetic background, but mainly to the effect of a wide number of environmental risk factors, many of which included under the umbrella of “modern lifestyle”. However, the worldwide economic globalization could also have contributed to a significant increase in the asthma burden, even in developing countries that presented a low disease prevalence in the recent past [1, 2].

In this review, we will analyze and discuss some items regarding the socio-economic aspects of asthma, such as:

- The burden of asthma
- Asthma as a global disease
- Asthma mortality
- Asthma characterization
- Asthma co-morbidities
- Global asthma cost (direct and indirect)
- Social impact

The burden of asthma

Asthma is primarily a chronic inflammatory disease that tends to present as a lifelong condition, with different severity degrees throughout the asthma patient's life [1, 2]. Described since Hippocrates, asthma affects people from all age groups and presents its peak incidence in childhood. Recent data from the general population showed that in children up to 5 years old, the overall asthma incidence rate was 23/1,000 children per year; this incidence rate decreased among youth aged 12–17 years old to 4.4/1,000/year. Adult females had 1.8 times greater asthma incidence than adult males (4.9/1000 vs. 2.8/1000, respectively) [3].

In the United States of America (USA), per the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)-2012, about 40 million people suffered from lifetime asthma (13% of the USA population) and 26 million people (8%) suffered from current asthma [4]. The lifetime asthma prevalence in different countries was estimated to range from 1 to 18% of the general population [5].

So, worldwide, it is estimated that nowadays more than 300 million people have asthma [1]. In 2025, we will probably have more 100 million asthma patients [5]. However, this may be an underestimation as asthma

* Correspondence: cnalvong@hotmail.com

¹Algarve Immunology Center, Faro, Portugal

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Asthmas Impact On Society The Social And Economic Burden

Lee B. Reichman, Earl S. Hershfield



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Asthma: Social and Psychological Factors and Psychosomatic Syndromes E. S. Brown,T. N. Wise,2003-07 The relation between psychiatric disorders and general medical conditions is currently a topic of much interest This volume includes a broad range of papers dealing with psychosocial issues in the morbidity of asthma depressive symptoms which appear to be more common in asthma patients than in the general population the link between asthma and anxiety disorders or side effects of corticosteroid therapy Furthermore one paper looks at problems with adherence to treatment and the interaction between patient and provider and another one presents a model of changing human health behavior Emotional disturbances contributing to several primarily psychogenic illnesses that mimic asthma are also covered Each chapter includes an overview of the field for those with minimal knowledge of the topic This book is written by experts for clinicians general practitioners mental health professionals allergists pulmonologists and primary care practitioners involved in treating asthma patients especially with a view to the psychological aspects and their influence on the disease

Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention DIANE Publishing Company,1996-09 Contents definition epidemiology risk factors mechanisms of asthma diagnosis and classification prevention a six part asthma management program educate patients to develop a partnership in asthma management assess and monitor asthma severity avoid or control asthma triggers establish medication plans for long

term management establish plans for managing exacerbations provide regular follow up care socioeconomics education and the delivery of care recommendations glossary Extensive references Charts and tables Tuberculosis Lee B. Reichman,Earl S. Hershfield,2000-03-08 This completely revised and expanded Second Edition thoroughly examines tuberculosis from historical theoretical and clinical perspectives including the most current discoveries Containing 35 revised rewritten rearranged and new chapters by nationally and internationally renowned experts the updated Second Edition presents expande **Respiratory Control and Disorders in the Newborn** Oomen P. Mathew,2003-01-28 This text analyses the pathophysiology diagnosis treatment and control of respiratory disorders in the newborn infant It explores the mechanisms patterns and factors influencing respiratory activity and dysfunction as well as the aetiology management and evaluation of conditions such as respiratory distress syndrome bronchopulmonary dysplasi Respiratory-Circulatory Interactions in Health and Disease Steven M. Scharf,Michael R. Pinsky,Shelly Magder,2001-04-27 This book describes the basic pathophysiologic and clinical importance of the reciprocal relationships and interactions between the respiratory and cardiovascular systems examining mechanical responses caused by lung volume and thoracic pressure Emphasizes humoral and neurophysical interactions occurring in diseases that lead to cardiorespiratory failure Covering pulmonary mechanics respiratory muscle function exercise physiology and control of venous return and cardiac output Respiratory Circulatory Interactions in Health and Disease focuses on mechanisms of heart failure in respiratory disease details the central interactions in sudden infant death syndrome considers the control of tissue metabolism the development of the sympathetic nervous system mathematical modeling and image analysis as a tool for investigating cardiocirculatory function examines the effects of muscle reflexes on respiration and circulation analyzes systemic inflammatory response and chronic obstructive lung disease discusses respiratory maneuvers to support failing circulation and ventilation addresses current controversies surrounding the balloon tipped catheter debates using inhaled nitrous oxide to treat circulatory failure and more Supplying a rational basis for understanding the ways in which the cardiovascular and respiratory systems interact in normal and abnormal situations Respiratory Circulatory Interactions in Health and Disease is a blue ribbon reference for cardiologists pulmonologists physiologists intensivists cardiothoracic surgeons anesthesiologists asthmatoologists health care practitioners interested in chest pulmonary and thoracic medicine and medical school students in these disciplines Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Joseph P. Lynch,2003-12-18 A discussion of the epidemiology clinical features and differential diagnoses of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis IPF Key topics include the role of polymorphonuclear leukocytes in the pathogenesis of pulmonary fibrosis and current treatment options including medical therapy and lung transplantation Proteoglycans in Lung Disease Hari G. Garg,2002-10-16 Discusses new treatment strategies for malignant mesothelioma pulmonary edema fibrosis asthma emphysema and bronchiectasis Proteoglycans in Lung Disease considers glycosaminoglycans as novel therapeutic agents or targets in lung disease the role of proteoglycans in determining mechanical behavior of lung tissue

Upper and Lower Respiratory Disease Jonathan Corren, Alkis Togias, Jean Bousquet, 2003-08-29 Focusing specifically on the inter relationship between the nose and the lungs this reference examines the structural connections between the upper and lower airways and explores the microscopic and gross anatomy of the respiratory tract Considering functional relationships as well as human and animal models of disease this source delivers arti

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