Presented at ISPOR 17: International Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, June 5, 2012.

Methods

Study Design and Data Source

Retrospective cohort study using two HIPAA-compliant United States claims databases.

Study Population and Study Timeline

- Acromegaly Patients Newly-Treated in the Identification Period

- Study Design and Data Source

- Continuous enrollment in preindex period

- Follow-up (Postindex) Period

- Treatment persistence can be inferred from medical charts. Limited duration of continuous patient enrollment, characteristic of claims databases, does not allow for review of earlier therapies (e.g., an earlier surgery for acromegaly) that may have been provided under different health plans. This study is based on health care claims, without verification in medical charts. The study included patients with commercial insurance, so the results may not be representative of the general acromegaly population. Healthcare claims represent medications purchased, not necessarily those taken.

References


LIMITATIONS

- Limited duration of continuous patient enrollment, characteristic of claims databases, does not allow for review of earlier therapies (e.g., an earlier surgery for acromegaly) that may have been provided under different health plans. This study is based on health care claims, without verification in medical charts. The study included patients with commercial insurance, so the results may not be representative of the general acromegaly population. Healthcare claims represent medications purchased, not necessarily those taken.

CONCLUSIONS

- Treatment patterns were observed for a total of 3 years. An innovative method which produces high-resolution images containing comprehensive individual patient histories. The (3,4,5) method uses multicolored line segments to represent different treatment claims, plotting them over time. Every horizontal line is an individual patient treatment history in the follow-up period. The height of each colored section is proportional to the number of users, grey areas represent periods with no claims for the treatments of interest, and black points indicate the end of enrollment for each patient. Images were reviewed for segment length and changes in colors to evaluate treatment patterns over time for every patient. Graphics were plotted using R version 2.13 and statistical analyses were performed using SAS® version 9.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).