

MEDICAL COST OF INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS AND PAINFUL BLADDER SYNDROME

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE: We estimated the direct costs of interstitial cystitis (IC) and painful bladder syndrome (PBS) in a large sample of the employed United States work force. **METHODS:** The INGENIX claims-based dataset includes claims for utilization of medical services for employees and dependents of 75 large employers including 1.8 million covered lives. Data from 1999 were reviewed. Patients were defined as having Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome (IC/PBS) when given the ICD-9 diagnosis code for IC (595.1) or the combination of codes for urinary frequency/urgency (788.41) and pelvic pain (625.8 or 625.9 for women, 788.09 for men). Estimated annual expenditures were derived from multivariate models that control for age, gender, work status (active/retired), median household income (based on zip code), urban/rural residence, medical and drug plan characteristics (managed care, deductible, co-insurance/co-payments), and 17 disease conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and hypertension. **RESULTS:** Of 331,605 individuals who filed claims, 285 were classified as having IC/PBS. The mean annual cost associated with IC/PBS was \$7,597, more than double that spent on those without the disorder. The cost is disproportionately associated with younger women.

CONCLUSIONS: This is the first ever investigation of the cost of IC/PBS to society. It does not include the non-medical economic and non-economic costs of the disease such as missed work, lost productivity, and poor quality of life. Nevertheless, this study suggests that the medical costs alone present a huge burden to the public with \$2 spent on IC/PBS patients for every dollar spent on those without the disease. Further investigation to evaluate the nature and effectiveness of the expenditures and to improve disease management is warranted.

	Annual Expenditures (per person)			
	Persons without IC/ PBS	Persons with IC/ PBS		
	(N=331,605)	(N=285)		
	Total	Total	Medical	Rx Drugs
All	\$3,563	\$7,597	\$5,986	\$1,611
Age				
18-34	\$3,011	\$12,365	\$10,693	\$1,672
35-44	\$3,304	\$8,417	\$6,844	\$1,573
45-54	\$3,717	\$6,544	\$4,887	\$1,657
55-64	\$3,666	\$7,164	\$5,586	\$1,578
Gender				
Male	\$3,111	\$5,682	\$4,330	\$1,352
Female	\$4,229	\$9,902	\$8,376	\$1,526
Region				
Midwest	\$3,600	\$7,691	\$6,053	\$1,638
Northeast	\$3,396	\$7,245	\$5,749	\$1,496
South	\$3,720	\$7,919	\$6,175	\$1,744
West	\$3,660	\$7,886	\$6,148	\$1,738