

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE COSTS OF FOREIGN PATIENTS ATTENDING TO REGIONAL PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN CATALONIA

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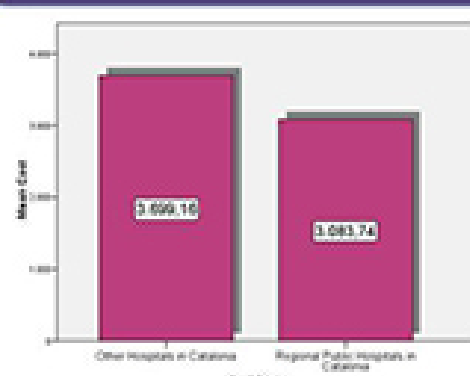
BACKGROUND

In the recent years, the number of patients that travel abroad to receive treatment has increased, and also people who are abroad for a short period of time. Therefore, public health must be shared by domestic and international patients, with all consequences it may have in terms of costs and uses.

OBJECTIVE

We assess whether the medical costs and uses are associated with the patient's origin country. First, we compare international patients treated in Regional Public Hospitals in Catalonia with the ones treated in any other kind of hospital. Second, the comparison is done between international and domestic patients both treated in the Regional Public Hospital of Palamós.

DATA AND METHODS



Costs of International patients treated in Regional Public Hospitals in Catalonia vs. treated in other hospitals. ($p < 0.001$)

We use data from the CMBD 2012 of Catalonia and data from the Regional Public Hospital of Palamós in 2012. The costs in the Hospital of Palamós are calculated for each case given the RECH (Red Española de Costes Hospitalarios) methodology. The other hospitals assess the costs using the DRG (Diagnosis-related group) average according to the RECH database. A case-control design is used. We present the descriptive results.



Costs of International patients and domestic patients both treated in the Regional Public Hospital of Palamós. ($p = 0.722$)

RESULTS

Sex	Age	Activity	Length of stay (quintiles)	Funding
Costs of international patients treated in Regional Public Hospitals in Catalonia (cases) vs. treated in other hospitals (controls)				
<p>$p < 0.001$ Others: NS</p>	<p>$p < 0.05$ Others: NS</p>	<p>$p < 0.001$ Others: NS</p>	<p>$p < 0.001$ Quintiles 1: NS</p>	<p>$p < 0.001$ Others: NS</p>
Costs of international patients (cases) vs. domestic patients (controls) both treated in the Regional Public Hospital of Palamós				
<p>NS</p>	<p>NS</p>	<p>$p = 0.03$ Others: NS</p>	<p>$p = 0.05$ Others: NS</p>	<p>NS</p>