

Cost-effectiveness analysis of influenza A (H1N1) chemoprophylaxis in Unified Health System in Brazil

Luisa Vecoso*, Marcus Silva, Everton Silva, Mariangela Rezende, Tais Galvao

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Oseltamivir and zanamivir have indication for treating symptomatic flu and in prophylaxis in epidemics for groups with high risk of complications. **METHODS:** Effectiveness data was identified in literature review, and costs were obtained from official systems and micro-costing. **RESULTS:** We adopted a decision-tree model to assess the effectiveness of chemoprophylaxis in Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) perspective with willingness to pay BRL 30,000.00/QALY. The incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for chemoprophylaxis compared to no prophylaxis was -2,921.14/QALY. **CONCLUSION:** Chemoprophylaxis is cost-effective in Brazilian scenario.

Key words:

Cost-effectiveness, influenza, Brazil.

Introduction

Oseltamivir and zanamivir are antiviral drugs recommended by World Health Organization (WHO) and Brazilian Health Ministry for chemoprophylaxis of influenza A (H1N1) for high risk groups (1,2).

The analysis of complete evidence identified the risk of bias in favor of the technology (3) and the cost-effectiveness was assessed in different countries but no analysis in Brazilian context was available.

Results and Discussion

We identified the effectiveness data in literature review. We assessed costs for the payer perspective in disease period and obtained data from official Brazilian Ministry of Health system and micro-costing at Unicamp University Hospital (study approved by Unicamp ethics committee, report 2.357.158/2017). Cost and effectiveness data is shown in Table. We adopted a decision-tree model (Figure) and willingness to pay BRL 30,000.00/QALY (quality-adjusted life years). The incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) was calculated for prophylaxis compared to no prophylaxis. We tested the robustness of results using deterministic and probabilistic sensitivity analysis.

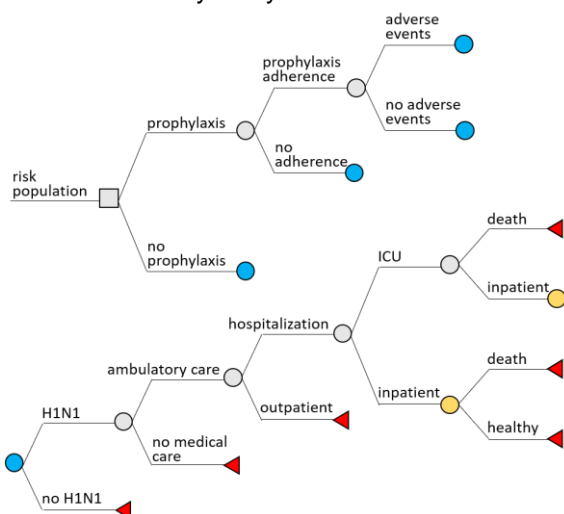


Figure. Decision-tree model

Calculated ICER as -2,921.14/QALY and -337.84 per H1N1 case avoided, with 43% probability of being of lower cost and higher effectiveness.

Table. Variables adopted in the model

Model variables	Effectiveness (CI 95%)
Prophylaxis adherence	0.70 (0.54; 0.83)
Adverse events	0.09 (0.02; 0.18)
Relative risk of H1N1 with chemoprophylaxis	0.43 (0.33; 0.57)
H1N1 in risk population	0.14 (0.11; 0.16)
Ambulatory care	0.67 (0.58; 0.75)
Hospitalization	0.43 (0.39; 0.42)
Death in hospital	0.14 (0.12; 0.15)
Intensive care unit	0.23 (0.20; 0.27)
Death in intensive care unit	0.40 (0.29; 0.52)
Health states	Utility (CI 95%)
H1N1	0.50 (0.46; 0.53)
H1N1 with hospitalization	0.23 (0.18; 0.28)
Adverse events	-0.20 (-0.29; -0.05)
Healthy	0.89 (0.88; 0.89)
Cost	BRL (SD)
Chemoprophylaxis	39.42 (17.94)
Ambulatory care	12.47 (5.21)
Hospitalization	5,727.59 (7,758.28)
Intensive care unit	19,217.25 (7,917.33)
Adverse events	292.05 (724.95)

Notes: CI, confidence interval; BRL, Brazilian real; SD, standard deviation.

Conclusions

Influenza A (H1N1) chemoprophylaxis is cost-effective in SUS perspective.

Acknowledgement

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