

Multiple sclerosis drugs and catastrophic health expenditure

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Background: Out-of-pocket (OOP) payments account for more than a third of national health expenditures in Iran. However, little is known on the extent to which these OOP payments are associated with personal or household financial catastrophe among specialty disease patients such as Multiple sclerosis. This paper seeks to examine the incidence of catastrophic health expenditure among households which at least one of their members suffers from Multiple sclerosis.

Method: This study was carried out in Ahvaz, Iran (2014). The study population included households that at least one of their members suffer from MS and were inhibited in Khuzestan for more than 3 years. Furthermore, Logit regression was employed by using the default software STATA12.

Results: 3.37% of families were faced with catastrophic costs. Important variables including drug brand, housing, income and health insurance were significantly correlated with catastrophic expenditures.

Conclusion: This study suggests that although a small proportion of MS patients faced with catastrophic health expenditure, mechanisms that pool risk and cost (insurance) are needed to protect them and improve financial and access equity in health care.

Keywords: catastrophic Health expenditure, multiple sclerosis drugs