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МЕТОДОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ОСНОВЫ АНАЛИЗА ЭФФЕКТИВНОСТИ МЕДИЦИНСКИХ ТЕХНОЛОГИЙ ПРИ ПРОВЕДЕНИИ ФАРМАКОЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ

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PHARMACOECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF THE KUVAN DRUG PRODUCT IN PHENYLKETONURIC PATIENTS

Kulikov A. Yu.1, Rybchenko Yu. V.2
1Laboratory of pharmacoeconomics, I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation
2 Department of organization of medicinal provision and pharmacoeconomics, I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation

Abstract: A pharmacoeconomic study of the treatment of phenylketonuria (PKU) treatment using Kuvan drug product combined with the diet or dietary therapy alone has been conducted. It has been established that the therapy is dominant in the first case when compared to the second case because it shows better therapeutic effectiveness and is characterized by a lower cost-effectiveness ratio. It has also been determined that the addition of Kuvan to the dietary therapy requires additional costs of 11,969,761 RUB per one patient over 16 years. Despite the increase in the costs linked to the use of the new and only drug for the treatment of PKU, the overall effect on the budget will be decreased due to the low prevalence of the disease.

Keywords: pharmacoeconomic analysis, effectiveness, costs, cost–effectiveness analysis, budget impact analysis, phenylketonuria, phenylalanine, Kuvan, sapropterin, dietary therapy.

Introduction
Phenylketonuria (PKU) is a challenging issue for the public healthcare system in the Russian Federation (RF) and other countries worldwide.

PKU is a genetic disease that is inherited in an autosomal recessive fashion and results in the disturbance of the amino acid metabolism. Here, up to 1% of the cases of PKU is represented by the atypical forms associated with the mutations in other genes responsible for the coding for enzymes providing the synthesis of the cofactor of phenylalanine hydroxylase tetrahydrobiopterin (BH4). The clinical presentation of the disease develops in 2–3 weeks after the birth already and the irreversible changes in the central nervous system (CNS) develop in the child by the age of six month. Progressive intellectual disability, epilepsy syndrome, and other psychoneurological disorders are characteristic for the PKU patients [14].

The occurrence of the methods for the drug treatment of PKU is of particular interest because dietary therapy is currently the main method of medical treatment. In 2007, the Food and Drug Administration of the USA (FDA) approved the Kuvan® (sapropterin) drug product (DP) that is the first medication capable of providing the body with BH4 in the PKU patients, thus making it possible to reduce the incapacity and mortality and improve the patients’ quality of life.

This DP was registered within the territory of the RF on July 15, 2014 [9]. The introduction of Kuvan into practice will lead to the growth in the costs and burden on the budget of the public healthcare system. Therefore, the need for carrying out the pharmacoeconomic analysis of the use of the dietary therapy alone in comparison with the use of Kuvan combined with the dietary therapy in PKU patients emerges.

Research procedure
The pharmacoeconomic assessment of the treatment of PKU patients with the Kuvan innovative drug product combined with the dietary therapy in comparison with the dietary therapy alone was performed as part of this study. These treatment regimens were used in children from 4 years to their adulthood with the initial weight of 14 kg. It was taken into account in the study that the discounting rate was 3%. It was also assumed that the dietary therapy would reduce by 25% during the use of Kuvan.

Based on the above mentioned, the pharmacoeconomic study including the following methods of pharmacoeconomic analysis was performed: effectiveness analysis, cost analysis, cost–effectiveness analysis, budget impact analysis.

Effectiveness analysis
At the first stage of the effectiveness analysis, the information retrieval was carried out, during which over ten clinical studies on the treatment of PKU with the dietary therapy alone and with Kuvan combined with the dietary therapy were obtained. In all found clinical studies, a parameter of blood phenylalanine concentration decrease was used as the effectiveness criterion. The data on the effectiveness of the therapy were adopted from phase III, randomized, double-blind, multicenter, placebo-controlled study by Levy H.L. et. al., 2007. 89 PKU patients (with the average age of 20 years old), of which 42 patients administered Kuvan and 47 patients administered placebo, participated in this study. It was shown that, after six weeks of treatment, the decrease in the blood phenylalanine concentration by 30% or more when compared to the initial level occurred in 44% of patients in the group that administered Kuvan and only in 9% of patients in the control group [15–17].

Cost analysis
The next stage of the performed pharmacoeconomic study was the direct cost analysis including the estimation of the costs for medical (including diagnostic) services, drug therapy, and dietary therapy (therapeutic mixtures) [1].

When calculating the costs for the diagnostics and treatment, the standard of medical care for PKU patients, from which the information on the medical services and their frequencies was adopted, was used [3]. The costs for the diagnostic and treatment procedures were calculated based on the prices presented in the rates of the Federal Compulsory Medical Insurance Fund (FOMS) of Moscow [4, 10]. The result of this calculation has the same monetary value both for the patients who administered Kuvan combined with the dietary therapy and patients who used the dietary therapy alone and is 70,713 RUB for one patient per the treatment course. The equal value of these costs for both groups of patients is explained by the use of the standard of medical care for PKU patients, in which the medical services received by any patient with this diagnosis are listed [11,12].
Based on the cost analysis, it was calculated that additional costs of 11,569,761 RUB over 16 years would be required in the case of the transfer of one patient from the dietary therapy to the treatment with the use of Kuvan and the diet [5].

Conclusions

1. The effectiveness analysis of PKU treatment demonstrated the advantage of the therapy with the use of Kuvan and the diet in comparison with the dietary therapy alone. In the first case, the reduction in the blood phenylalanine by 30% and more occurred in 44% of patients, while in the second case, only in 9%.

2. The overall costs in the case of the use of the diet alone are about 4,345,825 RUB, while they increase to 15,915,586 RUB when Kuvan is added to the treatment.

3. The cost-effectiveness analysis showed that the cost-effectiveness ratio was lower for the treatment with the use of Kuvan and the diet when compared to the dietary therapy alone and was 354,800 and 535,844 RUB, respectively.

4. It was established as a result of the budget impact analysis that when Kuvan was added to the dietary therapy, additional costs of 11,569,761 RUB over 16 years were required.

Summary

The performed pharmacoeconomic study of the treatment of PKU showed that the use of Kuvan combined with the dietary therapy is the dominant treatment method when compared to the use of the dietary therapy alone from the viewpoint of the cost–effectiveness analysis. Here, additional costs of 11,569,761 RUB per one patient over 16 years are needed during this transition from the dietary therapy to the treatment with the use of Kuvan and the diet. Despite the increase in the costs in the case of the use of the new and only drug for the treatment of PKU, the overall effect on the budget will be reduced because of the low prevalence of the disease.

References

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