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Economic burden of blindness and vision impairment in slovenia - preliminary cost analysis results

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PURPOSE: To assess selected aspects of the economic burden of blindness and vision impairment in Slovenia.

METHODS: A preliminary analysis of direct healthcare and absenteeism costs in 2022, based on population-level reimbursement data from the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia. The study included patients hospitalized with diagnoses H54.0-H54.3 (ICD-10) and/or those using specific medical aids for blindness and vision impairment.

RESULTS: In 2022, the direct healthcare costs for 4,153 patients amounted to €5.5 million. The majority (80.3%) of these expenditures (80.3%) were directly related to eye diseases, 17.1% to injuries and 2.5% to depression and anxiety disorders. The largest share of direct healthcare costs related to eye diseases was attributed to outpatient healthcare services, including specialized ophthalmology clinics, comprehensive ophthalmic outpatient care, rehabilitation, and primary-level visits (52.8%), followed by medications and medical devices (41.6%) and hospitalizations (5.6%). Annual absenteeism costs ranged between €298,885 and €342,192.

CONCLUSION: Preliminary analysis of the selected aspects of the economic burden of blindness and vision impairment in Slovenia highlights a significant financial burden and underscores the need for investments in prevention, early detection, and disease management to curb the rising impact of these conditions and improve quality of life for patients and their families.

Breme slepote in slabovidnosti v sloveniji – preliminarni rezultati analize stroškov bolezni

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NAMEN: Oceniti izbrane elemente ekonomskega bremena slepote in slabovidnosti v Sloveniji.

METODE: Preliminarna analiza neposrednih zdravstvenih stroškov in stroškov zaradi absentizma v letu 2022, temelječa na podatkih Zavoda za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije. Bolniki so bili vključeni v raziskavo na podlagi hospitalizacij z diagnozami H54.0–H54.3 (MKB-10) in/ali uporabe specifičnih medicinskih pripomočkov za slepe/slabovidne.

REZULTATI: Neposredni zdravstveni stroški za 4.153 bolnikov so leta 2022 dosegli 5.5 milijona €. 80,3 % izdatkov je bilo povezanih neposredno z očesnimi boleznimi, 17,1 % s poškodbami in 2,5 % z depresijo in anksioznimi motnjami. Največji delež neposrednih stroškov očesnih bolezni je nastal z zunajbolnišničnimi zdravstvenimi obravnavami, ki zajemajo storitve specialističnih oftalmoloških ambulant, celostne oftalmološke ambulantne obravnave, rehabilitacijo in obiske na primerni ravni (52,8 %), sledijo pa zdravila in medicinski pripomočki (41,6%) ter hospitalizacije (5,6%) . Letni stroški absentizma so znašali med 298.885 € in 342.192 €.

ZAKLJUČEK: Prva preliminarna analiza izbranih elementov stroškov slepote in slabovidnosti v Sloveniji kaže na občutno ekonomsko breme ter potrebo po vlaganjih v preventivo, zgodnje odkrivanje in obvladovanje bolezni za obvladovanje naraščanja bremena teh stanj in izboljšanje kakovosti življenja bolnikov in njihovih svojcev.