Abstract

Objective. To compare costs of diagnosis and annual treatment of osteoporosis and hip fracture between the Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación (INR) and the protocol used by the Seguro Popular de Salud (SPSS). Methods. Direct costs gathered in a prospective study with real cases at the INR are presented, and then this data is re-analyzed with the methodology and protocol for the SPSS to estimate the costs of those cases if treated with the SPSS protocol. Results. Important differences were found in the cost of hip fracture: the SPSS estimates ($37,363.73 MXN) almost double the INR cost ($20,286.86 MXN). This discrepancy was caused by the different types of surgeries the INR and SPSS protocols call for (the SPSS assumes that all hip fractures will necessitate a hip replacement) and the cost of subsequent hospitalization. A prospective study at the SPSS is needed to validate these results. Conclusions. Important differences were found between treatment of the same osteoporosis related problems at the INR and SPSS. We recommend revising the SPSS protocol to include less costly surgical treatments.

Keywords

Cost and cost analysis, osteoporosis, hip fractures, Mexico.