Abstract

Objective. To estimate the cost-effectiveness ratio of surfactant rescue treatment of premature infants with respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) who are covered by the Medical Insurance for a New Generation. Materials and Methods. A cost-effectiveness evaluation was conducted from the third-payer perspective. Comparisons were made between the use of bovine surfactant (BS) therapy and without BS therapy. A decision tree model with a lifetime horizon was used where the measurements of effectiveness were life years gained (LYG) and quality-adjusted life years (QALYs). A 5% discount rate was considered for costs and health outcomes. All costs are expressed in Mexican pesos 2009. Results. Incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICER) were MXN$136,670 per LYG and MXN$125,250 per QALY. Conclusion. Surfactant therapy was confirmed as a cost-effective strategy in accordance with World Health Organization criteria of three per capita gross domestic product (GDP) per QALY in premature infants with RDS in Mexico.

Keywords

Cost effectiveness, surfactant, respiratory distress syndrome, direct medical costs, life years gained, quality adjusted life years, Mexico.