Author's response to reviews

Title: Costs and utilization of hemophilia patients

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Response to reviewers

The authors made several improvements both in form and content, trying to come upon reviewer’s comments. It’s is true that results are based in a single Hemophilia Comprehensive Care Center, but CHSJ-EPE is the biggest hospital in our region and the second in Portugal. First big change was the title. We changed the title; the previous one was very ambitious as this is the first study on the financial impact of healthcare in patients with hemophilia in Portugal. To finance differently hemophilia patients we must know how much they cost and this is the main aim of this study.

With regard to the form, we cut the “integrated disease Management” section since it was not directly related with hemophilia, and the “materials, methods and discussion” sections were reorganized deeply.

Related to the “methods” section, this is a retrospective, observational study using medical and pharmacy electronic medical records and data from CHSJ-EPE. Due to the limited sample size of patients, statistical analyses were restricted to a descriptive approach. It is note-worthy that for a rare disease such as hemophilia randomized clinical trials will always be very difficult to undertake given the relatively low incidence of the disease. We changed the “hospital visits and hospitalizations costs” to “hospital utilization “costs, which means that includes all visits to the hospital.

Although the limitations of this study, we expect that the current exercise represents an opportunity, for example, to change the funding of rare diseases, such as hemophilia, in Portugal. However the last table (table 6) was removed and was emphasized the need for a new form of financing hemophilia in Portugal.

The authors