Author's response to reviews

Title: Costs and utilization of treatment in patients with hemophilia

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- Joanne Wu

1. As suggested we integrated the “hemophilia Costs” section in the Background section;
2. We changed the title of table 1 for “Total hospital drugs costs in Portugal”;
3. Patients for this study were selected from our Hemophilia CCC database if they had at least one contact with our hospital in that period (or a hospital visit or a factor clotting claim in our pharmacy);
4. Two main outcomes were measured from January 2011 through December 2013: (1) cost associated with all hospital pharmacy claims (clotting factor) and (2) number of hospital visits/hospitalization. Costs were annualized by computing the sum of total costs for each patient and dividing by 3. Total costs were defined as the sum of the two aforementioned costs.
5. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS-22 (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). Differences in means were tested using the Mann-Whitney U test. The Kruskal-Wallis test was used to compare more than two groups. These non-parametric tests were used because data wasn’t normally distributed, using a kolmogorov-Smirnov test for normality.

We also made several improvements in the quality of written English as asked.

The authors