Health Care Utilization and Costs Associated With Constipation (C-ONLY) and Co-occurring Irritable Bowel Syndrome With Constipation (IBS+C) Compared to Migraine in a Large Managed Care Population

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BACKGROUND
Chronic constipation is one of the most common disorders suffered by Americans, with an estimated prevalence between 2% and 27% (Higgins and Johanson, 2004). The estimated burden of constipation includes both direct medical costs and productivity losses. In addition, there is a significant economic burden to managed care payers from the care of patients with constipation (Baran RW, 1). However, little is known about the utilization and costs associated with the co-existence of constipation and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS; IBS+C). We attempted to address this knowledge gap through an evaluation of the medical claims for a large US managed care population.

METHODS
Study Design
A retrospective analysis of longitudinal insurance claims data from a large US health plan.

Data Sources
Claims data from a large US health plan were used to determine the cohort of interest and to assess health care utilization and charges. All claims data were de-identified.

Inclusion Criteria
Primary or non-primary ICD-9 codes for constipation, IBS, or migraine. Patients were included if they had been diagnosed within the past 9 months with either C-ONLY, IBS+C, or MIGRAINE.

RESULTS

Chronic constipation is one of the most common disorders suffered by Americans, with an estimated prevalence between 2% and 27% (Higgins and Johanson, 2004). The estimated burden of constipation includes both direct medical costs and productivity losses. In addition, there is a significant economic burden to managed care payers from the care of patients with constipation (Baran RW, 1). However, little is known about the utilization and costs associated with the co-existence of constipation and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS; IBS+C). We attempted to address this knowledge gap through an evaluation of the medical claims for a large US managed care population.

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