

Current Medical Research and Opinion >
Volume 25, 2009 - Issue 7231 | 12 | 0
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Original Article

Projected economic impact of clinical findings of generic entry of topiramate on G4 European countries

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Pages 1793-1805 | Accepted 15 May 2009, Published online: 05 Jun 2009

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1185/03007990903044374>

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To explore the effects of generic substitution of the antiepileptic drug (AED) topiramate (Topamax in Canada; to convert observed Canadian costs into the settings of France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom (UK); and to forecast the economic impact of generic topiramate entry in these four European countries

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CAN\$/person-year) were compared between periods using multivariate models. Annualized per-patient costs (2007€ or 2007£/person-year) were converted using Canadian utilization rates, European prices and service-use ratios. Non-parametric bootstrap served to assess statistical significance of cost differences. Topiramate market was forecasted following generic entry (09/2009–09/2010) using autoregressive models based on the European experience. The economic impact of generic topiramate entry was estimated for each country.

Results: A total of 1164 patients (mean age: 39.8 years, 61.7% female) were observed for 2.6 years on average. After covariates adjustment, generic-use periods were associated with increased pharmacy dispensings (other AEDs: +0.95/person-year, non-AEDs: +12.28/person-year, $p < 0.001$), hospitalizations (+ 0.08/person-year, $p = 0.015$), and lengths of hospital stays (+0.51 days/person-year, $p < 0.001$). Adjusted costs, excluding topiramate, were CAN\$1060/person-year higher during generic use ($p = 0.005$). Converted per-patient costs excluding topiramate were significantly higher for generic relative to brand periods in all European countries (adjusted cost differences per person-year: €706–815, $p < 0.001$ for all comparisons). System-wide costs would increase from 3.5 to 24.4% one year after generic entry.

Limitations: Study limitations include the absence of indirect costs, possible claim inaccuracies, and IMS data limitations.

Conclusions: Higher health costs were projected for G4 European countries from the Canadian experience following the generic entry of topiramate.

Q Key words: : Antiepileptic drugs Budget impact Cost conversion Generic substitution

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M.G. has disclosed that she is an employee of Janssen-Cilag EMEA. All other co-authors disclosed that they are employees of Analysis Group, Inc., which has received research grants to conduct this study from Janssen-Cilag EMEA.

All peer reviewers receive honoraria from CMRO for their review work. Peer reviewer 1 disclosed that he/she has received grant support from GlaxoSmithKline. Peer reviewer 2 disclosed that he/she has no relevant financial relationships.

Acknowledgment

Janssen-Cilag EMEA participated in the design, review, and approval of the manuscript.

The authors disclosed no further assistance in preparation of this manuscript.

Notes

† Topamax is a registered trade name of Ortho-McNeil Neurologics, Inc., Titusville, NJ, USA

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