Estimating the Frequency and Rate of First 50 Common Types of Invasive Procedures in Iran Healthcare System

A Akbari Sari1, *S Babashahy1,2, A Olyaeimanesh1,2, A Rashidian1

1. Dept. of Health Management and Economics, School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
2. Dept. of Health Economics, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Tehran, Iran

*Corresponding Author: Tel/Fax: +98- 21- 81454424 Email: Babashahy@health.gov.ir

(Received 12 Feb 2012; accepted 27 Aug 2012)

Abstract
Background: The aim of this study was to estimate the frequency and rate of the first 50 common types of invasive procedures in Iran.
Methods: Data about the number of all invasive procedures and each type of procedure that were conducted in Iran in 2010 were collected using the main insurance organizations database. These numbers were sorted in an excel database, and the first 50 invasive procedures with the most common frequency were selected. Then according to the population covered by the given insurance organizations, and based on the total population of Iran in 2011, we estimated the number and rate of each invasive procedure for the selective procedures.
Results: It was estimated that a total of 769,500 (1,026 per 100,000 population) natural vaginal delivery (NVD) was performed in Iran in 2011, followed by 416,790 cataract operation (556 per 100,000 population), 401,436 cesarean delivery (535 per 100,000 population), 260,514 coronary angiography disease (347 per 100,000 population), 181,836 varicocele (242 per 100,000 population), 144,918 appendectomy (193 per 100,000 population), 134,766 rhinoplasty (180 per 100,000 population) and 105,912 pilonidal cyst (141 per 100,000 population).
Conclusion: The result could be used to identify and select the most frequent invasive procedures in Iran, to calculate the average cost of each procedure and to use these costs to estimate hospital budget and improve policy-making.

Keywords: Invasive procedures, Frequency, Common operation, Iran

Introduction
Access to accurate and reliable data is an important prerequisite for exploring the cost-effectiveness of healthcare interventions. In particular, information about the numbers, rates and average costs of common invasive procedures, might help policy makers in resource allocation and payment system. In addition there are currently significant debates about different aspects of hospital management, including granting autonomy to public hospitals (1, 2), medical fee and tariff (3), and budget and payment system (4). There are also arguments about the amount of fees that should be paid to the physicians for the care they provide at hospitals (5-7). To make appropriate and proper decisions for tackling these issues, it is so important to have precise and reliable information. An invaluable type of data that is very crucial to inform appropriate decision making is the number and rate of invasive procedures and surgical operations. Estimating the number of invasive procedures can assist the policy makers in exploring the possible

Available at: http://ijph.tums.ac.ir
effects of any possible changes (i.e. changes in tariff) in healthcare and to adjust the income and refining policies of different disciplines in health system (7). In other words, studying the rate and type of procedures is an important method for monitoring the provider’s behavior. This type of studies has been conducted in other countries (8) however these data have not yet been well documented in Iran. There were only few studies estimating the number of invasive procedures in Iran. The aim of this study was to identify the first 50 common types of invasive procedures and to estimate the number and proportion of each procedure in Iran.

Material and Methods

Data about the total number of all invasive procedures and frequency of each type of procedure that were conducted in Iran in 2010 were collected using the main insurance organizations databases. Because some procedures are conducted under different titles, similar titles related to each procedures were combined and the total number of each procedure was estimated (Table 1). For example different types of appendectomy was considered and calculated under “Appendectomy” name (Table 1).

Table 1: Total different types for Appendectomy

| ID | Title of Procedure                      | Frequency in sample |
|----|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1  | Simple Appendectomy                     | 3,117               |
| 2  | Appendectomy or peritonitis or both     | 4,188               |
| 3  | Ruptured appendix with abscess          | 746                 |

Then the number of all types of invasive procedures that were conducted in 2010, were sorted in an excel database, and the first 50 procedures that had the most common frequency were selected. Finally, according to the population that were covered by the insurance organizations from where we collected the data (about 4 millions) and the total population of Iran in 2011 (75 million), we estimated the number of each invasive procedure for the selected procedures. For example, if the number of appendectomy in the sample database was 8,051 and the population that were covered by the insurance organizations were about 4 millions the number of this invasive procedure in Iran was estimated as follows:

\[
\text{Frequency of each Invasive Procedure in the country} = \frac{\text{NIPS} \times \text{TP}}{\text{TS}}
\]

NIPS: Number of Invasive Procedure in Sample
TP: Total Population of Country
TS: Total Sample

Then the rate of each procedure was estimated by the following formula:

\[
\text{Percentage of each Procedure} = \frac{\text{Number of each Procedure}}{\text{Total Number of all Procedures}} \times 100
\]

Finally number per 100,000 populations of each procedure was estimated as follows:

\[
\text{Number of each Procedure in 100,000 population} = \frac{\text{Number of each Procedure}}{\text{TP}} \times 100,000
\]

Results

It was estimated that a total of 4,894,884 invasive procedures were performed in Iran in 2011 and 3,486,528 (71.32%) of them were related to these 50 common invasive procedures. These procedures included 769,500 natural vaginal delivery (NVD) (15.72% of all invasive procedures, 1,026 procedure per 100,000 population) that were performed in Iran in 2011, followed by 416,790 cataract operation (8.51%, 556 per 100,000 population), 401,436 cesarean delivery
(8.20%, 535 per 100,000 population), 260,514 coronary angiography disease (5.32%, 347 per 100,000 population), 181,836 varicocele (3.71%, 242 per 100,000 population), 144,918 appendectomy (2.96%, 193 per 100,000 population), 134,766 rhinoplasty (2.75%, 180 per 100,000 population) and 105,912 pilonidal cyst (2.16%, 141 per 100,000 population) (Table 2).

**Table 2: The frequency and rate of the first 50 common invasive procedures in Iran in 2011**

| ID | Type of Invasive procedure                  | Frequency (in total population) | Percent of total procedures | Rate of procedure (per 100,000 population) |
|----|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Natural Vaginal Delivery                   | 769,500                         | 15.72                      | 1,026                                      |
| 2  | Cataract                                   | 416,790                         | 8.51                       | 556                                        |
| 3  | Cesarean                                   | 401,436                         | 8.20                       | 535                                        |
| 4  | Coronary Angiography                       | 260,514                         | 5.32                       | 347                                        |
| 5  | Varicocele                                 | 181,836                         | 3.71                       | 242                                        |
| 6  | Appendectomy                               | 144,918                         | 2.96                       | 193                                        |
| 7  | Rhinoplasty                                | 134,766                         | 2.75                       | 180                                        |
| 8  | Pilonidal cyst                             | 105,912                         | 1.92                       | 141                                        |
| 9  | Dilation And Curettage                     | 93,966                          | 1.73                       | 113                                        |
| 10 | Hemorrhoidectomy                           | 84,906                          | 1.56                       | 89                                         |
| 11 | Cholecystectomy                            | 66,690                          | 1.27                       | 70                                         |
| 12 | Hydrocele Excision                         | 62,298                          | 1.15                       | 75                                         |
| 13 | Ureteroscopy Pieloscopy                    | 61,038                          | 1.09                       | 62                                         |
| 14 | Inguinal hernia                            | 58,680                          | 1.07                       | 61                                         |
| 15 | Coronary Artery Bypass                     | 56,385                          | 0.95                       | 54                                         |
| 16 | Abortion and Dilation                      | 53,550                          | 0.93                       | 50                                         |
| 17 | Removal of buried wire, pin (deep)         | 52,254                          | 0.83                       | 53                                         |
| 18 | Hysterectomy                               | 46,260                          | 0.81                       | 44                                         |
| 19 | Coronary Angioplasty                       | 45,468                          | 0.78                       | 32                                         |
| 20 | Colporrhaphy (Posterior and Interior)      | 40,464                          | 0.72                       | 31                                         |
| 21 | Intervertebral disk, lumbar                | 39,499                          | 0.70                       | 29                                         |
| 22 | Tonsillectomy and adenectomy               | 32,796                          | 0.67                       | 28                                         |
| 23 | Introduction of stent in coronary          | 23,976                          | 0.49                       | 27                                         |
| 24 | Transurethral resection of prostate        | 15,696                          | 0.32                       | 26                                         |
| 25 | Excision of adenoma cyst                   | 15,462                          | 0.32                       | 25                                         |
| 26 | Neurolysis of median at carpal tunnel      | 13,374                          | 0.27                       | 24                                         |
| 27 | Minipectomy (Medial lateral)               | 13,050                          | 0.27                       | 23                                         |
| 28 | Cystoureteroscopy direct                   | 12,456                          | 0.25                       | 22                                         |
| 29 | Repositioning or repair of forehead        | 12,060                          | 0.25                       | 21                                         |
| 30 | Tracheoplasty                              | 11,988                          | 0.24                       | 20                                         |
| 31 | Mechanical Vitrectomy (e.g. VISC)          | 10,602                          | 0.22                       | 19                                         |
| 32 | Incision and drainage of deep abscess      | 10,548                          | 0.22                       | 18                                         |
| 33 | Suprapubic, one or two stages              | 10,152                          | 0.21                       | 17                                         |
| 34 | Nephrolithotomy, removal of calculus       | 9,774                           | 0.20                       | 16                                         |
| 35 | Conjunctiv rhinostomy                      | 9,774                           | 0.20                       | 15                                         |
| 36 | Sinusotomy, combined                       | 9,324                           | 0.20                       | 14                                         |
| 37 | Reduction with external skeletal fixation   | 9,270                           | 0.20                       | 13                                         |
Discussion

The natural vaginal delivery is the most common invasive procedure in Iran followed by cataract, cesarean section, coronary angiography, varicocele, appendectomy and rhinoplasty. The total number of these invasive procedures performed in 2011 were 4,894,884 and 3,486,528 (71.32%) of them were related to these 50 common procedures.

The number of NVD and cesarean delivery is comparable with the total number of birth in 2011 and the assumption that over 30% of births are performed by cesarean section in Iran (10-12). Data about the number of other procedures have not been yet well documented in Iran according to our knowledge.

A recent study has reported that around 250,000 appendectomy (400 per 100,000 population) are performed per year in the USA in people under the age of 18 years, compared to 193 per 100,000 population that we found in this study (13). Cataract had the greatest frequency (13.56% of all operations) in people who are covered by Iranian Medical Services Fund (14). About 3-5% of children had inguinal hernia, about 72.09% of which underwent operation (15).

Coronary angiography (4.2%), cataract (3.4%), NVD (2.9%) and cesarean (2.4%) were the most prevalent procedures in people covered by Medical Services Fund in Sari City which is comparable with our results (16). Our study is very similar to a USA study (8), however we have reported the costs of selected procedures elsewhere (17).

The number and rate of invasive procedures in this study was estimated according to the assumption that the population covered by the insurance organizations is representative of the total population of Iran and the fact that all the invasive procedures that were performed for the sample population have been reported and registered in the insurance organizations database, therefore these results should be used by caution.

Conclusion

The findings of this study have the potential to be used in studies of economic evaluations that may be conducted in the future. The results have also potential to be used for quality assurance purposes and also for policy making particularly regarding the implementation of the new tariff and payment system (18) and the possible effects that the new changes might have on the hospital budgets and experts.
Ethical considerations

Ethical issues (Including plagiarism, Informed Consent, misconduct, data fabrication and/or falsification, double publication and/or submission, redundancy, etc) have been completely observed by the authors.

Acknowledgment

This article was part of a MS dissertation supported by Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Reference

1. Jafari-Sirizi M, Rashdian A, Abolhasani F, Mohammad K, Yazdani Sh, Parkerton P, Yunesian M, Akbari F and Arab M (2011). Space or no space for managing public hospitals; a qualitative study of hospital autonomy in Iran. Int J Health Plann Manage, 26 (3): 121-137.

2. Anonymous (2011). 5th National Development Plan of Islamic republic of Iran and Iranian Employment Law. Parliament of, I. R. Iran. Available at: http://www.majlis.ir/budget.

3. Doshmangir L, Rashdian A, Moayeri F, Akbarisari A (2011). Study the effect of proposed changes of different specialized medical tariff relative values on the payment weight of clinical expertise's and health system costs. Hakim Research Journal, 14 (1): 1-9.

4. Folland Sh, Goodman A C, Stano M (2007). The economics of health and health care. 5th ed. Prentice Hall, New Jersey, p.: 543.

5. Kalantar M, Moayeri F, Moazzami M, Sheikholeslam E (2005). Medical Tariff and Relative Values. 1st ed. Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran, pp.: 9-15.

6. Babashahy S. Comparing New and Old Tariffs and Measuring the Cost of Common Operations in Iran in 2010 [MS thesis]. School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran; 2011.

7. Muir Gray J A (2004). Evidence based policy making. BMJ, 329: 988-989.

8. Anonymous (2011). Frequency of selected procedures: summary of utilization of fourteen frequently performed procedures. National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set. Vol. 1, narrative. Washington (DC). Available at: www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov.

9. Anonymous (2004-2009). Documentation and Studies of Health Tariff. Department of Health Economics, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran.

10. Anonymous (2002). Survey on rate of Cesarean and promote Natural Vaginal Delivery in Iran. Drug and treatment Affairs, Health Department of Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran.

11. Moghareh Abed I, Goharian V, Adibi P, Ghanei M (2000). Survey on cesarean rate in Survey of frequency of cesarean in Iran. Hakim Research Journal, 5 (2): 147-150.

12. Anonymous (2000). Report of population and health in Islamic Republic of Iran (DSH). Health Department of Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran.

13. Szklö M, Javeir Nieto F (2007). Epidemiology, beyond the basic. 5th ed. Aspen Inc, Maryland, pp.: 112-6.

14. Omidi F. Survey on factors leading to cataract in patient referring to one of medical centers of Iran University of medical science [MS thesis]. Science and Research Branch Islamic Azad University, Iran; 2000.

15. Mirshamsi M H, Delghani V (2002). The amount of inguinal hernia in elementary students of Yazd city. Journal of Shahed Sadoughi University, 8 (4): 41-46.

16. Tabrizi A (2006). Findings of study, analysis of cost and frequency of performed surgeries in private hospital of Nime-Shaban in Sari. Medical Services Insurance Organization, Iran. Available at: mino.org.ir.

17. Babashahy S, Akbari Sari A, Rashdian A, Olyae Manesh A (2012). Payments of Physicians Employed in Public and Private Hospitals after Modification of Surgical and Invasive Services Tariffs. Hakim Research Journal, 15(1): 38-43.

18. Kalantar M, Moayeri F (2009). Medical Tariff and Relative Values. 2nd ed. Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran, pp.: 10-15.