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Measuring the use of Medical Devices dispensed according to the PNPCD

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Objetivos (Objectives):

To assess the changes in the utilization of medical devices designed to the self-surveillance of the diabetic population and to determine the differences of utilization between regions of Portugal Mainland.

To analyse the possibility of establishing a unit measure reflecting an average daily utilization of the devices used to determine glycaemia, which would provide a proportion of the population that measures its glycaemia daily.

Metodologia (Methodology):

Data on utilization of medical devices from 2006 to 2008 were collected and analyzed yearly, monthly, nationally and regionally. The types of medical devices included in this study were those included on the PNPCD (National Plan of Control and Prevention of Diabetes): test strips to determine glycaemia, glycosuria and glycosuria/ketonuria, needles, lancets and syringes.

Utilization was expressed in terms of number of packages, Global Expense and National Health Service Expense.

In order to assess geographical distribution, data on population were collected to determine Number of packages/ 1000 inhabitants per region of Portugal Mainland.

At last, the possibility of assessment of an “average daily utilization” of the test strips to measure glycaemia was undertaken through the search of scientific consensus and advice of medical expertise.

Resultados (Results):

A progressive growth on the consumption of medical devices was registered from 2006 to 2007 and from 2007 to 2008 in all regions of Portugal Mainland.

These regions show different patterns of utilization once that for each thousand inhabitants per region the number of medical devices used is different. Alentejo is the region presenting the highest number. It is also the region whose population is older.

An “average daily utilization” of test strips to measure glycaemia is a concept that implies a separation between type I diabetes and type II diabetes.

Conclusões (Conclusions):

Diabetes is a disease believed to be developing, but numbers on prevalence and incidence are scarce. Some studies of utilization of anti-diabetic drugs may provide an overall picture, however, it is still necessary to analyse a set of information generated at the patient level. Utilization of medical devices by the population with diabetes provides a further indicator on the evolution of the disease in numbers.

A progressive growth on the overall consumption of these medical devices was registered as were also the asymmetries between the different regions analysed at a certain time. These results point to a new possibility of correlation between incidence of diabetes and magnitude/asymmetries in the utilization of medical devices.

The individuals who suffer from diabetes are medically advised to measure glycaemia according to a frequency appropriated for the best control of their blood glucose levels, therefore the concept of average daily utilization must be separated between type I and type II diabetes.