
Letter to Editor

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Care of the Burn Patient in the Burner Center: 1 Year Invoice-Cost Evaluation

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The fact that severe burns are exposed to expensive and long-term treatments, and they have to return to their jobs late, constitute an important problem for countries such as our country where all treatment costs are covered by social security insurance. In this study, we aimed to perform a cost analysis by dividing invoice expenses into subgroups of burn patients who were treated in the Tersier Hospital Burn Center for 1 year.

The ICD 404-405 codes of the patients treated in our Burn Center were removed from the Probel™ data recording system. Since the most burn patients were treated in 2018, the data of that year were used. The study was done retrospectively by examining the file records in electronic environment. Hospital bed fees, serum-medication fees, medical equipment, radiological fees, laboratory, blood and blood products, outpatient clinic, companion and other (consultation, physical therapy etc.) fees were collected as the cost subgroups. The expenses of the personnel in the maintenance could not be taken into account. Parameters was analyzed in three groups as Social security invoice, reel cost and difference. There are 178 patient records in our center in 2018. The total invoice price was 175.213.38 USD the reel cost price was 123.480.61 USD and the difference was +51,732,77 USD. (6.5 Turkish liras=1 USD).

In cost calculation, the ranking was changed as the medical supplies, surgery fees, unclassified fees, and hospital bed fees. The proportion of these subgroups was 49.4%, 27.6%, 9.7% and 5.5%, respectively. In the profit and loss account, while medical supplies and caregivers fees were minus balance sheet, other groups made profit. If these two groups were not harmed, the difference between the social security insurance invoice and the cost would be 79.907.69 USD. Total profit over the invoice amount notified to social security insurance was 20.7%.

It is stated that burn patients require extensive treatment sessions, multiple surgical procedures and prolonged hospitalization time [1-3]. Calculating that the personnel expenses in burn care account for 37% of the invoice amount, adding an average additional cost of 75.178.57 USD shifts the profit and loss difference to minus direction. The calculation of the annual budget is very difficult due to the staff movements. This fee category covered many of the routine parameters, such as day and night wages of physicians, nurses and staffs, workload due to physiotherapy time, shift fees etc. These observations suggest the cost of burn patients differ from other emergency conditions. In order to obtain precise data, patient- and staff-based calculations are important in the preparation of annual budgets of burn centers.

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