Intravenous immunoglobulin for treatment of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura: economic and health service impact analyses


Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
This study investigates the cost-effectiveness and health service impact of IVIg for the treatment of ITP in Canada by answering the following research questions:
• What is the economic evidence regarding the cost-effectiveness of IVIg for ITP?
• What is the cost-effectiveness of the use of IVIg for pediatric patients with ITP in Canada?
• What is the cost-effectiveness of the use of IVIg for adult patients with ITP in Canada?
• What is the impact on health services of IVIg use (including an estimated population impact, budget impact, and impact on legal, ethical, and equity issues) as a treatment for ITP in Canada?

Authors' conclusions
The two primary economic evaluations that were conducted in this review indicate that the cost-effectiveness of IVIg for the treatment of ITP may differ according to the patient population. The cost-effectiveness of IVIg was found to be more favourable in the childhood ITP population than in the chronic ITP adult population. The differences between the two cost-effectiveness model results should be considered given the potential impact of IVIg on health services in Canada. Based on published prevalence and incidence studies, the number of chronic adult cases of ITP and the associated maintenance costs were estimated to be larger than the number of acute childhood cases and the associated costs.

The economic evaluations in the analysis are based on models that synthesize data from various sources. A possible next step that would help answer our research questions would be to conduct Canadian randomized trials that include the collection of patient level health resource utilization and utility data and compare the IVIg treatment options.

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