LETTER

Global economic burden of schizophrenia: response to authors' reply

Amanda L Neil[1]
Vaughan J Carr[2,3]

[1]Menzies Institute for Medical Research, The University of Tasmania, Hobart, TAS, [2]Research Unit for Schizophrenia Epidemiology, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW, [3]Department of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Dear editor

For clarification, we undertook bottom-up costing using individual participant data from the Low Prevalence Disorders Study in our costing study.[1] We did not use the data reported in the study by Carr et al[2] as asserted by Chong et al.[3] Chong et al have thus misunderstood and thus misrepresented our methodology in both their systematic review[4] and their response to our letter.[5]

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

References

1. Carr VJ, Neil AL, Halpin SA, Holmes S, Lewin TJ. Costs of schizophrenia and other psychoses in urban Australia: findings from the Low Prevalence (Psychotic) Disorders Study. *Aust N Z J Psychiatry*. 2003;37(1):31–40.
2. Carr VJ, Johnston PJ, Lewin TJ, Rajkumar S, Carter GL, Issakidis C. Patterns of service use among persons with schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. *Psychiatr Serv*. 2003;54(2):226–235.
3. Chong HY, Teoh SL, Wu DB, Kotirum S, Chiou CF, Chaiyakunapruk N. Global economic burden of schizophrenia: a systematic review. *Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat*. 2016;12:357–373.
4. Chong HY, Teoh SL, Wu DB, Kotirum S, Chiou CF, Chaiyakunapruk N. Authors' reply. *Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat*. 2016;12:3071–3072.
5. Neil AL, Carr VJ. Global economic burden of schizophrenia: letter in response. *Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat*. 2016;12:3069–3070.

Correspondence: Amanda L Neil
Menzies Institute for Medical Research, 17 Liverpool Street, Hobart, TAS 7000, Australia
Tel +61 3 6226 4640
Email amanda.neil@utas.edu.au

Authors' reply

Huey Yi Chong[1]
Nathorn Chaiyakunapruk[1–4]

[1]School of Pharmacy, Monash University Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia; [2]Center of Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research (CPOR), Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand; [3]School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA; [4]School of Population Health, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Correspondence: Nathorn Chaiyakunapruk
School of Pharmacy, Monash University Malaysia, Jalan Lagoon Selatan, 46150 Bandar Sunway, Selangor, Malaysia
Email nathorn.chaiyakunapruk@monash.edu

Dear editor

We thank Dr Neil and Professor Carr for their clarification on the data source used in their study.[1] In this regard, we would like to highlight one of the most common challenges when conducting any systematic review, for example economic burden of schizophrenia in this case – the marked diversity in reporting among the included studies, which increases the likelihood of any potential misinterpretation. In convergence with a number of published systematic reviews of economic burden studies,[2–5] there has been a consistent call for a more explicit reporting in various aspects of an economic burden study, thus readability and transparency can be enhanced. However, a standardized guide/checklist for conducting and reporting economic burden is yet to be available. On the final note, we strongly urge for the development of such a guidance document to improve the quality and clarity of an economic burden study.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

References

1. Carr VJ, Neil AL, Halpin SA, Holmes S, Lewin TJ. Costs of schizophrenia and other psychoses in urban Australia: findings from the Low Prevalence (Psychotic) Disorders Study. *Aust N Z J Psychiatry*. 2003; 37(1):31–40.
2. Cooper NJ. Economic burden of rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2000;39(1):28–33.
3. Ng CS, Lee JY, Toh MP, Ko Y. Cost-of-illness studies of diabetes mellitus: a systematic review. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract*. 2014;105(2):151–163.
4. Kleine-Budde K, Touil E, Moock J, Bramesfeld A, Kawohl W, Rossler W. Cost of illness for bipolar disorder: a systematic review of the economic burden. *Bipolar Disord*. 2014;16(4):337–353.
5. Luppa M, Heinrich S, Angermeyer MC, König H-H, Riedel-Heller SG. Cost-of-illness studies of depression. *J Affect Disord*. 2007;98(1): 29–43.