Economic Burden of Eating Disorder in South Korea Using National Health Insurance Data

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BACKGROUND

The prevalence of eating disorders is increasing in worldwide. Eating disorder is one of the most common chronic disorders in adolescence. Few studies have investigated the economic burden of eating disorders.

METHODS

This retrospective analysis assessed data from the Korean NHI claims database and Healthcare bigdata hub operated by Health insurance review & assessment service. The direct medical/non-medical costs, and indirect costs resulting from eating disorder were estimated to calculate the economic burden of eating disorder using claims data from the National Health Insurance Service.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The prevalence of eating disorder is 12.02 (per 100,000) in 2010, and 16.48 in 2018. The estimated economic burden of anorexia nervosa in 2015 is \$ 204,372, and that of bulimia nervosa in 2015 is \$ 130,671. The economic burden of eating disorder has increased steadily and the amount is considerable despite the caregiver burden was not accounted. This study is meaningful in that it represents the whole country by investigating prevalence and disease burden in patients with eating disorders of all ages using national big data.

<Table. Economic burden of eating disorders in 2015>

	Anorexia nervosa			Bulimia nervosa			Atypical eating disorder and etc.		
Classification	Male	Female	Sub total	Male	Female	Sub total	Male	Female	Sub total
Direct costs	15,045	136,239	151,284	4,133	89,313	93,446	17,013	102,689	119,701
Indirect costs 2	14,172	37,916	52,088	2,011	35,214	37,225	32,420	98,790	131,210
(Indirect costs 1)	16,860	68,503	85,363	2,634	59,280	61,914	79,174	200,928	280,102
Total costs (US dollar)	29,217	174,156	203,372	6,144	124,527	130,671	49,433	201,478	250,912

<Figure1. Prevalence of eating disorders in Korea from 2010 to 2018 (per 100,000)>

<Figure2. Economic burden of eating disorders in Korea in 2015 by age range>