

AbobotulinumtoxinA in the management of cervical dystonia in the United Kingdom: a budget impact analysis

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Background: Cervical dystonia (CD) can be effectively managed by a combination of botulinum neurotoxin A (BoNT-A) and conventional therapy (skeletal muscle relaxants and rehabilitative therapy), but the costs of different interventions in the UK vary.

Methods: A budget impact model was developed from the UK payer perspective with a 5-year time horizon to evaluate the effects of changing market shares of abobotulinumtoxinA, onabotulinumtoxinA, and incobotulinumtoxinA, and best supportive care from the UK payer perspective. Epidemiological and resource use data were retrieved from the published literature and clinical expert opinion. Deterministic sensitivity analyses were performed to determine the parameters most influential on the budgetary findings under base case assumptions.

Results: Under base case assumptions, an increased uptake of abobotulinumtoxinA showed an accumulated savings of £2,250,992 by year 5. Treatment per patient per year with onabotulinumtoxinA and incobotulinumtoxinA costs more when compared to treatment with abobotulinumtoxinA. One-way sensitivity analyses showed that the prevalence of CD, dose per injection of each of the BoNT-As, and time to reinjection of incobotulinumtoxinA and abobotulinumtoxinA influenced the base case findings most.

Conclusion: There is potential for cost savings associated with the greater use of abobotulinumtoxinA rather than other BoNT-A treatments, permitting more patients to benefit more from effective BoNT-A treatment with a fixed budget.

Keywords: cervical dystonia, torticollis, botulinum toxin A, budget impact analysis

Introduction

Dystonias are severe disorders causing involuntary contraction of the skeletal muscles, abnormal posture, and severe pain or discomfort. The most commonly reported type of focal, segmental, multifocal, generalized, or ipsilateral dystonia is cervical dystonia (CD), which particularly affects the muscles controlling the neck and shoulders in middle-aged patients.¹⁻³ CD may be idiopathic or acquired. Idiopathic CD is often dependent on a genetic predisposition, while acquired CD results from trauma to either the central or peripheral nerves controlling the neck muscles.⁴ There appears to be a dearth of evidence on the epidemiology of CD in the UK. The prevalence of CD in Europe seems to be higher compared to the rest of the world, with numbers ranging between 8 and 233 cases per 1,000,000 population.^{5,6} In the UK alone, the prevalence of CD has been reported to be 61 cases per 1,000,000.⁶ Data on the economic burden of CD in the UK is relatively scarce, but 6-month costs have been estimated in the USA to range from \$1,255 to as high as \$63,320.¹ Due to the complexity associated with the management of CD, current guidelines include a mixture of medical,

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surgical, and physical therapy options, such as treatment with botulinum toxin, deep brain stimulation, and selective peripheral denervation.^{2,7,8}

Botulinum neurotoxin A (BoNT-A) is effective^{9–11} in managing CDs, especially when combined with conventional therapy, which consists of skeletal muscle relaxants and rehabilitative therapy. Thus, the use of BoNT-As can alleviate the burden of care associated with managing CD on a day-to-day basis,^{12–14} and potentially improve both patients' and their caregivers' quality of life. In addition, BoNT-As usage in patients with CD have been shown to improve productivity-related gains resulting in decreased absenteeism and sickness leave.^{15,16} There are three BoNT-As used in the treatment of CD in the UK: abobotulinumtoxinA (Dysport®; Ipsen Biopharm SAS, Boulogne-Billancourt, France), onabotulinumtoxinA (Botox®; Allergan, Inc., Irvine, CA, USA), and incobotulinumtoxinA (Xeomin®; Merz Pharma GmbH and Co KGaA, Frankfurt am Main, Germany), and there is evidence to suggest that there are differences in the characteristics of these BoNT-As, including time to first improvement, duration of symptomatic relief, and maximum benefit derived by patients.¹⁷ However, without comparative head-to-head trials of BoNT-As, it is widely assumed that all are equally effective, although costs may vary. Given these variations in costs, and the aforementioned benefits associated with the different BoNT-As, we investigated the budget impact of treating patients with CD in the UK with BoNT-As, taking into account assumptions on evolution of market shares.

Methods

Overview

We explored the possibility of budgetary changes that could be associated with the use of abobotulinumtoxinA, onabotulinumtoxinA, or incobotulinumtoxinA as a major component of treatment of CD in the UK by developing a budget impact model in Excel (2007). Our model evaluated two scenarios: the status quo (the current mix of available competing BoNT-A treatments according to their prevailing market shares) and a new market share scenario, which assumed a hypothetical increased uptake of abobotulinumtoxinA relative to its competitors. We defined the budget impact of increasing the market share of abobotulinumtoxinA as the difference in costs of the new market share and status quo scenarios.

The analysis was conducted from the UK National Health Service and Personal Social Services perspective over a 5-year time horizon. The model required epidemiological, resource use, unit costs, and market share data. These data

were derived from several sources, which included published literature, the British National Formulary (BNF),¹⁸ Personal Social Services,¹⁹ and interviews with UK clinicians. In both scenarios, we examined abobotulinumtoxinA, onabotulinumtoxinA, incobotulinumtoxinA, and best supportive care without BoNT-A treatment. Best supportive care in our budget impact assessment comprised only the use of select pharmacotherapy (analgesics and skeletal muscle relaxants) and rehabilitative therapy. Generally, in situations where we were unable to identify or retrieve data on the UK, we incorporated Europe-level or global-level data.

The budget impact model accounted first for the number of patients eligible for the different BoNT-A treatments each year using the estimated prevalence of CD. BoNT-A-eligible patients were distributed to receive each type of treatment based on the market shares in the status quo and new market share scenarios. Annual costs of each intervention were calculated using the unit costs and the frequency of the different resource use categories. The net budgetary impact of an increased market share was defined as the difference between the total costs for both scenarios. The model allows for the calculation of the following outcomes: number of patients receiving treatment by year; annual cost of interventions compared; annual costs of other medical services; and net budget impact.

Patient population

For the prevalence of CD in the UK, we used data from representative populations similar to the UK population. The prevalence of CD was estimated to range between 0.0057% and 0.037%, translating to between 3,512⁶ and 23,037 (Ipsen Biopharm Ltd, unpublished data, 2012) patients, all of which we assumed were receiving care at any point in time. A European study by the Epidemiological Study of Dystonia in Europe (ESDE) Collaborative Group⁶ examined patients with CD from eight countries and reported the lowest prevalence figures, but note that these are underestimates. Based on a Finnish study by Erjanti et al,²⁰ in which the authors conducted a more active detection of cases, we inferred the prevalence of CD to be 13,324. We considered this latter figure to be a more realistic estimate of the prevalence of CD and, therefore, adopted this figure for our base case prevalence assumption; 23,037 patients were used as the upper limit of the range (Ipsen Biopharm Ltd, unpublished data, October 2012). Of the estimated 13,324 patients receiving any treatment for CD, we assumed that 80% of these would receive BoNT-A treatment at any point in time, due to the delay in onset to correct diagnosis or due to other reasons

that not all patients will get BoNT-A (Ipsen Biopharm Ltd, unpublished data, 2012). The actual prevalence may be higher given that the Dystonia Society reports that CD is a very under-recognized condition, with patients reporting that it can take 3 or 4 years before a diagnosis is made by referral to a neurologist.²¹ Table 1 shows a summary of the prevalence estimates.

Market shares and BoNT-A dosing

Status quo market share data indicate that 69%, 15.5%, and 15.5% of patients with CD currently receive abobotulinumtoxinA, onabotulinumtoxinA, and incobotulinumtoxinA, respectively (Ipsen Biopharm Ltd, unpublished data, 2012), while new market share hypothesized a 3% annual increase each year to year 5 for abobotulinumtoxinA, reaching 81% for abobotulinumtoxinA with a commensurate decline in market share for other BoNT-As. Table 2 gives more details on the status quo and new market share scenarios. Our base case analysis included dosages for all three BoNT-As derived from the summary of product characteristics (SPC).²²⁻²⁴ In addition, we assumed that BoNT-A units are not interchangeable, and that there was no dose ratio. Patients treated with abobotulinumtoxinA were assumed to receive 500 units of the injection per dose,²² while onabotulinumtoxinA and incobotulinumtoxinA were assumed to have been administered as 200 units each.^{23,24} A mean reinjection interval of 12 weeks for abobotulinumtoxinA and onabotulinumtoxinA was inferred from the SPC, while time to reinjection of incobotulinumtoxinA was 10 weeks.

Costs

We included direct costs only in this analysis, as the budget impact assessment was conducted from a third-party payer

Table 1 Prevalence of CD

Disease	Base case value	Range	Reference
CD			
Total population with CD	13,324	3,631–23,571	Erjanti et al ²⁰ Epidemiological Study of Dystonia in Europe (ESDE) Collaborative Group ⁶ Ipsen Biopharm Ltd, unpublished data, 2012
Percentage of patients with CD receiving care with BoNT-A	80.0%	Not applicable	Ipsen Biopharm Ltd, unpublished data, 2012

Abbreviations: CD, cervical dystonia; BoNT-A, botulinum neurotoxin A.

Table 2 Market share and absolute number of patients receiving BoNT-A

Scenarios	BoNT-A treatment	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
		Proportion of patients eligible (%)	Number of patients eligible	Number of patients eligible	Proportion of patients eligible (%)	Number of patients eligible	Number of patients eligible	Proportion of patients eligible (%)	Number of patients eligible	Number of patients eligible	Proportion of patients eligible (%)	Number of patients eligible	Number of patients eligible	Proportion of patients eligible (%)	Number of patients eligible	
Status quo	AbobotulinumtoxinA	69	7,525	7,601	69	7,678	69	7,756	69	7,834	69	7,912	69	7,990		
	OnabotulinumtoxinA	15.5	1,690	1,708	15.5	1,725	15.5	1,742	15.5	1,760	15.5	1,778	15.5	1,796		
	IncobotulinumtoxinA	15.5	1,690	1,708	15.5	1,725	15.5	1,742	15.5	1,760	15.5	1,778	15.5	1,796		
Total New projections	AbobotulinumtoxinA	69	10,906	11,016	72	11,128	75	11,240	78	11,353	81	11,465	84	11,577		
	OnabotulinumtoxinA	15.5	7,525	7,932	14	8,346	12.5	8,757	11	9,168	9.5	9,579	9	10,000		
	IncobotulinumtoxinA	15.5	1,690	1,542	14	1,391	12.5	1,242	11	1,093	9.5	954	9	805		
Total		100	10,906	11,016	100	11,128	100	11,240	100	11,353	100	11,465	100	11,577		

Abbreviation: BoNT-A, botulinum neurotoxin A.

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perspective. We identified unit costs from the BNF, Personal Social Services Research Unit, and clinical expert opinion, where possible. The various costs included in the analysis comprised unit costs of BoNT-A vials, costs related to concomitant medications, and costs of other resource use related to laboratory tests and procedures, as well as health care professional contact. Since BoNT-A injection vials are manufactured in different sizes, specialists administering the injections were assumed to use the smallest possible vial combinations. In addition, we assumed that there was no vial sharing among patients. Table 3 shows the details of the unit costs and dosages of BoNT-A injections included in the analysis. Cost data used for our analysis were retrieved from the BNF.¹⁸ The dosages of the BoNT-A injections were, however, based on the suggested clinical doses reported in the SPCs, and the variation around their estimates were either based on the corresponding SPC for each BoNT-A or expert clinical opinion.

Resource use for BoNT-A treatment arms were essentially the same, except for the costs of the BoNT-A. Cost differences arise between treatment with BoNT-A and treatment without BoNT-A – the proportional use of anticholinergics, dopamine antagonists, beta-blockers, antiepileptics, muscle relaxants, and the need for selective peripheral denervation and laboratory tests. In general, data on proportional resource

use by patients was unavailable in the published literature. We therefore used data based on clinical expert opinion. On the other hand, the dosage data was derived from the BNF.¹⁸ Further details are provided in Table 4. It should be noted that as the market share evolution involved changes only to BoNT-A, and not to best supportive care without BoNT-A, the budget impact will not depend on best supportive care costs. However, cost comparisons between patients receiving treatment with and without BoNT-A were possible.

Analysis

Base case analyses were conducted using the epidemiological, market share, cost, and resource use figures given earlier. One-way sensitivity analyses were conducted to determine which parameters were most sensitive to change in the model. Model parameters were varied between high and low values based on the ranges identified from the literature, when data were available. For data where the ranges could not be specified, a predefined $\pm 20\%$ range was used to test the parameters. The results are presented as a tornado diagram. We also considered an alternative “real-world” scenario analysis where BoNT-A doses and reinjection intervals were based on a clinical expert’s input rather than SPC figures to ascertain how net budgetary differences could depend on these alternative assumptions. Details of the BoNT-A doses

Table 3 BoNT-A medication treatment cost and dosage

BoNT-A	Base case value	Range		Source
		Minimum	Maximum	
AbobotulinumtoxinA				
Vial cost of abobotulinumtoxinA (300 units)	£92.40	£73.92	£110.88	British National Formulary; ¹⁸ range for costs were assumed at $\pm 20\%$
Vial cost of abobotulinumtoxinA (500 units)	£154.00	£123.20	£184.80	British National Formulary; ¹⁸ range for costs were assumed at $\pm 20\%$
Dosage per injection of abobotulinumtoxinA	500 units	500 units	1000 units	SPC; ²² range informed by clinical expert opinion
Reinjection interval for abobotulinumtoxinA	12 weeks	12 weeks	12 weeks	SPC; ²² range informed by clinical expert opinion
OnabotulinumtoxinA				
Vial cost of onabotulinumtoxinA (50 units)	£77.50	£62.00	£93.00	British National Formulary; ¹⁸ range for costs were assumed at $\pm 20\%$
Vial cost of onabotulinumtoxinA (100 units)	£138.20	£110.56	£165.84	British National Formulary; ¹⁸ range for costs were assumed at $\pm 20\%$
Vial cost of onabotulinumtoxinA (200 units)	£276.40	£221.12	£331.68	British National Formulary; ¹⁸ range for costs were assumed at $\pm 20\%$
Dosage per injection of onabotulinumtoxinA	200 units	200 units	300 units	SPC; ²³ range informed by clinical expert opinion
Reinjection interval for onabotulinumtoxinA	12 weeks	10 weeks	12 weeks	SPC; ²³ range informed by clinical expert opinion
IncobotulinumtoxinA				
Vial cost of incobotulinumtoxinA (50 units)	£72.00	£57.60	£86.40	British National Formulary; ¹⁸ range for costs were assumed at $\pm 20\%$
Vial cost of incobotulinumtoxinA (100 units)	£129.90	£103.92	£155.88	British National Formulary; ¹⁸ range for costs were assumed at $\pm 20\%$
Dosage per injection of incobotulinumtoxinA	200 units	200 units	300 units	SPC; ²⁴ range informed by clinical expert opinion
Reinjection interval for incobotulinumtoxinA	10 weeks	10 weeks	12 weeks	SPC; ²⁴ range informed by clinical expert opinion

Abbreviations: BoNT-A, botulinum neurotoxin A; SPC, summary of product characteristics.

Table 4 Resource use for BoNT-A and best supportive care (without BoNT-A) arms in the base case

Resource use item	BoNT-A arm, % using	BoNT-A arm, amount	BSC arm, % using	BSC arm, amount	Sources
Concomitant medication					
Anticholinergics	0.6	1 mg daily dose	5	1 mg daily dose	UK clinical expert opinion; British National Formulary ¹⁸
Clonazepam	26.5	1 mg daily dose	26.5	1 mg daily dose	UK clinical expert opinion; British National Formulary ¹⁸
Analgesics	33.5	1 g daily dose	33.5	1 g daily dose	UK clinical expert opinion; British National Formulary ¹⁸
Dopamine antagonist	0	NA	5	2.5 mg daily dose	UK clinical expert opinion; British National Formulary ¹⁸
Beta-blockers	0	NA	0.6	40 mg daily dose	UK clinical expert opinion; British National Formulary ¹⁸
Baclofen	0	NA	3.2	60 mg daily dose	UK clinical expert opinion; British National Formulary ¹⁸
Antiepileptics	0	NA	5.8	600 mg daily dose	UK clinical expert opinion; British National Formulary ¹⁸
Other muscle relaxants	0	NA	22.6	7.5 mg daily dose	UK clinical expert opinion; British National Formulary ¹⁸
Health care professional					
Neurologist visit (for injection)	73.5	4.33 visits per year ^a	0	NA	UK clinical expert opinion
Neurophysiologist visit (for injection)	26.5	4.3 visits per year ^a	0	NA	UK clinical expert opinion
Neurologist visit (excluding injections)	0	NA	100	2 visits per year	UK clinical expert opinion
GP visit	100	2 visits per year	100	2 visits per year	UK clinical expert opinion
Hospitalization	1.5	1 visit per year	1.5	1 visit per year	UK clinical expert opinion
Laboratory test					
Blood test	0	0	10	4 times per year	UK clinical expert opinion
Procedures					
EMG with needle	5	4.33 times per year ^a	0	NA	UK clinical expert opinion
Deep brain stimulation	0	NA	1	1 time per year	UK clinical expert opinion
Selective peripheral denervation	0	NA	1	1 time per year	UK clinical expert opinion

Note: ^aFrequency of resource use is linked to reinjection interval.

Abbreviations: BoNT-A, botulinum neurotoxin A; BSC, best supportive care; NA, not available; GP, general practitioner; EMG, electromyography; UK, United Kingdom.

and reinjection intervals used in this real-world scenario are given in Table 5.

Results

Under base case assumptions, the total 5-year expected cost of treating patients with CD was £101,996,037, while under the

new market share scenario, it was £99,745,045, due mostly to BoNT-A drug costs and health care professional visits. An increased uptake of abobotulinumtoxinA resulted in a total of £2,250,992 accumulated savings at the end of year 5. Total costs decreased by between £220,611 in year 2 and £909,441 in year 5 by increasing the market share of abobotulinumtoxinA gradually over the 5-year period. The net budget impact is presented in Table 6.

Table 5 BoNT-A medication dosage for “real-world” settings

BoNT-A	Mean	Source
AbobotulinumtoxinA		
Dosage per injection of abobotulinumtoxinA	448 units	Hubble et al ²⁷
Reinjection interval for abobotulinumtoxinA	11 weeks	Clinical expert opinion
OnabotulinumtoxinA		
Dosage per injection of onabotulinumtoxinA	142 units	Marchetti et al ²⁸
Reinjection interval for onabotulinumtoxinA	11 weeks	Clinical expert opinion
IncobotulinumtoxinA		
Dosage per injection of incobotulinumtoxinA	200 units	Misra et al ²⁹
Reinjection interval for incobotulinumtoxinA	10 weeks	Clinical expert opinion

Abbreviation: BoNT-A, botulinum neurotoxin A.

In the base case scenario, treatment per patient per year with onabotulinumtoxinA (£2,011) and incobotulinumtoxinA (£2,285) costs more compared to treatment with abobotulinumtoxinA (£1,480). Additionally, the annual costs associated with health care professional contact were lower for abobotulinumtoxinA and onabotulinumtoxinA (£718 each) compared to incobotulinumtoxinA (£839). All other annual costs associated with concomitant medication use, laboratory procedures, other medical/social services resource use, and nonmedical resource use were similar for all three BoNT-As. Figure 1 provides further details of the costs associated with BoNT-A treatments.

On comparison of all four possible interventions (Figure 1), the major cost drivers common to all four were

Table 6 Net 5-year budget impact of increasing abobotulinumtoxinA market share compared to status quo assumptions in the treatment of cervical dystonia in the UK

	Year 1 (£)	Year 2 (£)	Year 3 (£)	Year 4 (£)	Year 5 (£)	Total (£)
Budget under status quo assumptions	19,991,484	20,193,298	20,397,149	20,603,059	20,811,047	101,996,037
Budget under new market share assumptions	19,991,484	19,972,687	19,951,473	19,927,795	19,901,606	99,745,045
Net budget impact	0	-220,611	-445,677	-675,264	-909,441	-2,250,992

contact with health care professionals – best supportive care (£467) and use of concomitant medications (all BoNT-As £95 each; best supportive care £114) – while the medication costs associated with BoNT-A use was the main distinguishing factor between BoNT-A treatment.

One-way sensitivity analyses applied to the base case showed that the prevalence of CD; dose per injection of onabotulinumtoxinA, incobotulinumtoxinA, and abobotulinumtoxinA; and time to reinjection of incobotulinumtoxinA and abobotulinumtoxinA were the most influential parameters on net budget impact. Under the parameter ranges explored, abobotulinumtoxinA was always cost saving. Figure 2 is a tornado diagram showing the most important factors influencing the results of the base case analysis. (Table 7 provides definition for the abbreviations used).

Discussion

Our results suggest that the 3% annual increased use of abobotulinumtoxinA in comparison with other BoNT-As has the potential to result in budgetary savings of £2,250,992 over a 5-year period in the UK, compared to the current market

share distribution of the use of BoNT-As. Second, the annual costs per patient of abobotulinumtoxinA use were much lower compared to onabotulinumtoxinA or incobotulinumtoxinA. However, best supportive care annual costs per patient were lower than for any of the BoNT-A treatments. This difference between best supportive care and BoNT-A treatments was understandable, as it was related to the costs of administering the BoNT-A injections. As the annual costs of treating patients with abobotulinumtoxinA compared to other BoNT-As are much less, it may be possible to treat more patients with CD within a particular budget. Lastly, switching more people to a cheaper, equally effective drug is more cost saving. It is important to note that there are no differences in the efficacy of the three BoNT-As we evaluated. A recent mixed treatment comparison found no significant differences in the efficacy profiles of abobotulinumtoxinA, incobotulinumtoxinA, and onabotulinumtoxinA.²⁵ Furthermore, a recent consensus statement by the European Federation of Neurological Societies concluded that there were no differences in the formulations of BoNT-As in relation to the treatment of CD.²⁶ As a result, any savings accruable to the use of any of them can reasonably be assumed to be tied to the cost of administering each of these BoNT-As. The costs of administering each of these BoNT-As per patient mainly include the cost of the BoNT-A medication, as well as the costs associated with health care professional contact or visits. Our results, however, found

Table 7 Variable description for tornado diagram

Variable	Variable description
Time_Dysport	Time to reinjection of abobotulinumtoxinA
NumVisY_D_Neurlnj	Number of visits per year – neurologist (for injection) on abobotulinumtoxinA arm
Time_Botox	Time to reinjection of onabotulinumtoxinA
Dose_Dysport	Dosage per injection of abobotulinumtoxinA
Dose_Botox	Dosage per injection of onabotulinumtoxinA
Dose_Xeomin	Dosage per injection of incobotulinumtoxinA
CDPrev	Prevalence of cervical dystonia
VialC_Xeomin100	Vial cost of incobotulinumtoxinA (100 units)
VialC_Dysport500	Vial cost of abobotulinumtoxinA (500 units)
Time_Xeomin	Time to reinjection of incobotulinumtoxinA
VialC_Botox200	Vial cost of onabotulinumtoxinA (200 units)
CDTrt	Percentage of cervical dystonia patients who receive care
NumVisY_D_Physio	Number of visits per year – neurophysiologist on abobotulinumtoxinA arm
PropUt_D_Neurlnj	Proportion utilizing neurologist (for injection) on abobotulinumtoxinA arm
UnitC_D_Neurlnj	Unit cost – neurologist (for injection) on abobotulinumtoxinA arm

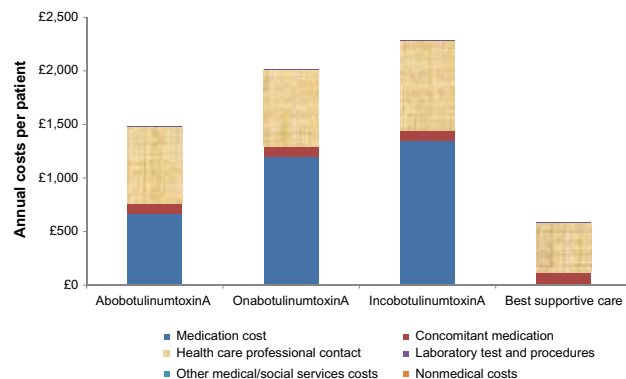


Figure 1 Cost of BoNT-A and best supportive care per patient per year by cost component. **Abbreviation:** BoNT-A, botulinum neurotoxin A.

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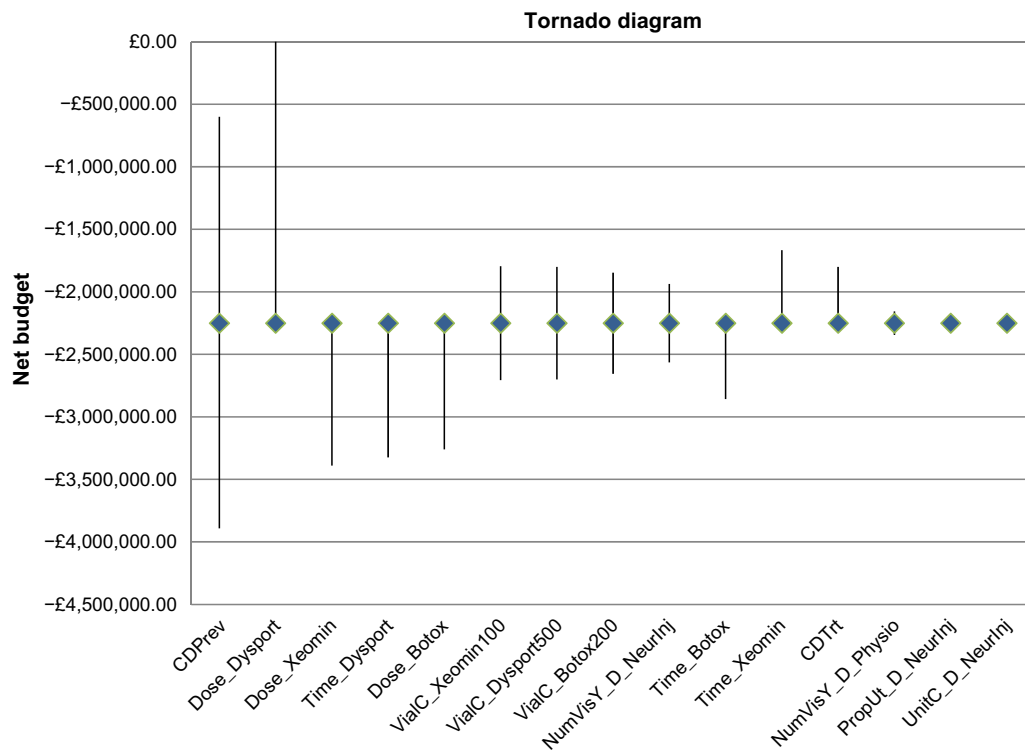


Figure 2 Tornado diagram of one-way sensitivity analysis showing the parameters that are most influential on net budget impact.

that although the latter of these costs is much lower for best supportive care compared to any of the BoNT-A's, the use of concomitant medication was higher for patients treated with best supportive care.

The use of “real-world” exploratory data^{27–29} for the doses of abobotulinumtoxinA,²⁷ onabotulinumtoxinA,²⁸ and incobotulinumtoxinA²⁹ showed broadly similar results to our primary analysis, reaffirming the net budgetary savings. The “real-world” analysis estimated accumulated savings of £1,653,441 as a result of an increased uptake of abobotulinumtoxinA, and the total costs per year of treating each patient with abobotulinumtoxinA, onabotulinumtoxinA, and incobotulinumtoxinA were £1,596, £1,888, and £2,285, respectively. This indicates that treating patients with CD with abobotulinumtoxinA could potentially save over £680 per patient per year. The major cost drivers were consistent with the findings in our primary analysis.

Our analysis is not without limitations. One major limitation we encountered while identifying model inputs for our analysis is related to the prevalence of CD in the UK. Previously published literature found the prevalence of CD to vary between 0.0057% and 0.037%, corresponding to between some 3,600 and 24,000 patients with CD in the UK (Ipsen Biopharm Ltd, unpublished data, 2012).^{6,20} These figures are considerably below the estimates of the Dystonia

Society, which suggests that there could be up to 70,000 patients with CD in the UK.²¹ It should be noted though that the Dystonia Society estimates include patients with other diseases apart from CD, which is why this figure was not included in our analysis. Another limitation is the dosage of BoNT-A injections. In clinical practice, there is wide variation in the mean injection doses and the time to reinjection of these injections. The SPC dosage and reinjection interval suggestions for each of the BoNT-A's were therefore used in our analysis, while the ranges for both dosages and reinjection intervals were based on assumptions from a clinical expert. In order to assess the robustness of the budgetary differences associated with the use of the SPC data, we performed a “real-world” exploratory budget impact analysis, where the data used were identified from previously published observational studies of treatment patterns for abobotulinumtoxinA, onabotulinumtoxinA, and incobotulinumtoxinA. Information on reinjection time was not available in previously published literature; thus, we maintained the original SPC time to reinjection suggestion for each of the BoNT-A's. Results from this “real-world” scenario were broadly similar to those in the base case, indicating that the use of BoNT-A's could lead to significant budgetary savings.

Our budget impact analysis did not specifically consider differences in efficacy or safety of the three

BoNT-A preparations. Given the absence of head-to-head comparisons, any potential cost differences arising from dissimilar responses or adverse effects were hence assumed to be zero.

Finally, our approach was conservative in assuming that there was wastage – ie, physicians administering the injection would use the smallest possible combinations of available vial sizes and discard any remaining content of the vials after each session. Consequently, the budget estimates may have been underestimates that potentially indicate lower costs with the use of BoNT-A treatment.

Conclusion

While data on the epidemiology of CD is sparse in the UK, the cost burden associated with the management of patients with CD is high. The analysis found the potential for cost savings associated with greater use of abobotulinumtoxinA rather than other BoNT-A treatments, permitting more patients to stand to benefit from effective BoNT-A treatment with a fixed budget.

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Author contributions

KD, JD, and SG reviewed all stages of the work, including model development, evaluation of selected data sources, and critical review of the results. TH reviewed the final model structure, data sources and results, and provided expert opinion for the model inputs that were unavailable from published sources. SB and SA gathered the data necessary for the model and performed model analyses. Additionally, SB performed the model programming, and SA wrote the manuscript. All authors critically reviewed the final version of the manuscript for its content and accuracy and agree that the conclusions presented are appropriately balanced. All authors contributed toward data analysis, drafting and revising the paper and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Disclosure

SA, SB, and KD are employees of Evidera Inc., which received consultancy fees to conduct the research from Ipsen Pharma. JD and SG are both full-time employees of Ipsen Pharma. TH has received consultancy fees from Ipsen Pharma. Ipsen Pharma did not have any influence on the interpretation of the data, as well as on the final conclusions drawn. The authors report no other conflicts of interest in this work.

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