BACKGROUND

Metastatic renal cell carcinoma (RCC), a type of kidney cancer that has spread throughout the body and cannot be surgically removed, poses high mortality rates. A recent study of patients in Norway revealed a 5-year prevalence of RCC in renal, pelvis, and ureter in Portugal was 3.07% in 2012. Assuming 90% of patients with advanced RCC are older than 65, and 30% of patients with localized disease develop metastases later, up to 1421 patients with advanced or metastatic RCC were estimated to be in Norway in 2012. Everolimus is a human immunoglobulin G monoclonal antibody that works as a checkpoint inhibitor. It restores the ability of the immune system to reduce tumor-induced immunosuppression by blocking a negative regulator of T-cell activation and response. It is indicated for treating patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma.

OBJECTIVE

This study aimed to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of nivolumab versus everolimus for the treatment of advanced/metastatic RCC patients in Norway from a societal perspective.

METHODS

A validated cost-effectiveness model with 4-week cycles was built as a patient-level survival model in Excel. This model incorporates the EU health economic data base and can be used to evaluate different patient subgroups. Patients were stratified into those with good performance status and those with poor performance status. The health states of patients with advanced/metastatic RCC are shown in the figure 1. This model has been extensively evaluated and applied in numerous previous technology appraisals in oncology, including RCC. It has been previously submitted to Portuguese authorities for nivolumab in other oncology indications.

RESULTS

• Nivolumab was associated with a higher gain in QALYs and life expectancy than everolimus, the current standard of care in Portugal, at higher costs.
• The majority (66.1%) of the total discounted costs of €37,473 per patient was explained by costs associated with the initial therapy.

DISCUSSION

• Validation with long-term real-world survival data in the real-world setting was limited due to lack of data for RCC beyond 5 years. Long-term projections indicated that the logictropic curve was a conservative assumption compared with Norwegian[9, 30] and SEER®[11] real-world evidence. The logictropic function also substantially underestimated the overall survival estimates for Nivolumab seen in the 5-year data from the phase I CheckMate003 trial. This might be explained by the highly different patient characteristics between CheckMate003 and the phase II CheckMate002 trial populations. Nonetheless, the logictropic curve approximated the real-world data best of all curves tested. Furthermore, the logictropic curve was the best-fitting curve for OS observed in the clinical trial, based on AIC and BIC criteria.

REFERENCES


CONCLUSIONS

This analysis demonstrated a significant survival gain of 0.67 years by nivolumab, compared to the current standard of care, everolimus. Nivolumab improved quality-of-life by 0.62 QALYs. Patients experienced higher health state utility values compared to everolimus across all health states. In addition, nivolumab showed a favorable toxicity profile. Higher costs for nivolumab and its ICER of €43.235 per QALY were associated with treatment acquisition, treatment administration and treatment monitoring costs. The ICER for nivolumab vs. everolimus did not change substantially across all one-way sensitivity analyses conducted.

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