INTRODUCTION

Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura

• ITP is an autoimmune disorder characterized by persistent thrombocytopenia. 1
• Thrombocytopenia in ITP is due to increased platelet destruction 2 and suboptimal platelet production 3–5
• The estimated incidence of ITP is 100 cases per 100,000 people per year 6
• Severe thrombocytopenia in ITP has potentially serious consequences 6
  • Severe thrombocytopenia 7
  • Gastrointestinal bleeding 8
  • Intracranial hemorrhage

Burden of Disease

• Adult patients with chronic ITP experience worse health-related quality of life (HRQoL) 9 compared with the general population 9
• Chronic ITP requires long-term management to treat and prevent bleeding, which increases the burden of disease on the patient and results in decreased healthcare resource utilization (HCRU). 9
• The impact of ITP on workplace productivity was not known.

METHODS

Study Design

• Cross-sectional, descriptive study comparing ITP patients to an age-matched adult population of adults not diagnosed with ITP (N = 1031)

Study Population

• Patients with ITP (N = 1002)
  • From the Platelet Disorder Support Association's database of approximately 14,000 ITP patients
  • Diagnosis of ITP by a physician
  • ≥ 18 years of age
  • US residents
  • Not employed by a pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or medical products company
  • Control group of adults not diagnosed with ITP (N = 1031)

OBJECTIVES

• The primary objective of this study was to assess the burden of illness of ITP in terms of healthcare resource use and workplace productivity in ITP patients vs non-ITP controls
• The impact of ITP on HRQoL was also assessed with the following instruments:

  – Short-form (SF)-36 scale scores
  – ITP-patient assessment questionnaire (PAQ) scale scores

DATA Collection and Analysis

• Participants completed an internet-based survey that took approximately 30 to 40 minutes to complete.
• Online survey conducted from March 7–22, 2006 (ITP patients) and from March 28–April 3, 2006 (control group)
• Online survey included three main question types:
  1. Healthcare resource use
  2. Employment-related
  3. Health-related quality of life
• SF-36, used in a wide variety of disease 8
• ITP-PAQ, the first disease-specific HRQoL questionnaire validated for use in adults with chronic ITP 10
• Scale scores for the SF-36 and ITP-PAQ range from 0 to 100; higher scores indicate better health status
• Statistical testing performed with t-tests for continuous variables and chi-squared tests for categorical variables
• p-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant
• Margin of sampling error was a ±3%