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Summary

OUTPATIENT CARE FOR CROHN'S DISEASE IN BRAZILIAN HEALTHCARE PUBLIC SYSTEM: FROM COST TO REFUND

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A Brazilian tertiary hospital study of 191 Crohn's disease patients found hospital costs exceeded SUS reimbursement, with significant cost variations by age at onset and disease phenotype.

KEY POINTS

- The study evaluated outpatient treatment costs for Crohn's disease patients followed between 2006 and 2020 in a Brazilian public tertiary hospital using SUS reimbursement tables and hospital cost data.
- SUS reimbursement averaged $6741.40 per patient while hospital costs averaged $7162.88, with inflation-adjusted costs reaching $11274.36.
- Significant cost differences emerged between patients with disease onset at age 16-40 versus over 40 years, and between inflammatory versus fistulizing disease phenotypes.
- The authors conclude that differences between reimbursement and actual costs raise questions about the updating of SUS reimbursement tables and cost study credibility for healthcare planning.
- This material is relevant to health economists, gastroenterologists, and healthcare administrators involved in inflammatory bowel disease management and resource allocation in public health systems.

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