

Health-Related Quality of Life of Patients with Recurrent Pericarditis in the United States

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Authorship

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Objectives:

To evaluate the burden of recurrent pericarditis (RP) on the daily lives of patients in the United States.

Methods:

We conducted a web-based survey of adult patients (≥ 18 years) with RP who experienced ≥ 1 recurrence during the last 12 months. Respondents were recruited from the RHAPSODY clinical trial recruitment database. Patients not enrolled in the trial who met the survey inclusion criteria were asked to provide information on demographic/clinical characteristics and to complete an 11-point pericarditis pain numerical rating scale, the Patient Global Impression of Pericarditis Severity scale, the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System[®] (PROMIS[®]) Global Health Scale, the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment scale, and questions about the impact of RP on daily life.

Results:

83 respondents were included in the analysis; 21 (25%) were currently experiencing a recurrence. Most respondents were Caucasian (76%) and 55% were female, with mean (\pm standard deviation [SD]) age of 49.3 (± 13.7) years. 39% of patients reported history of hypertension, 37% anxiety, and 34% depression. 49% of patients reported ≥ 3 recurrences in the past year, and 40% visited the ER for their most recent recurrence. Commonly reported symptoms included chest pain (93%), shortness of breath (66%), weakness/fatigue (64%), and heart palpitations (52%). The mean value for worst pericarditis pain (0-10 scale) during the recent recurrence was 6.1 (± 2.3). Patients had substantially lower mean T scores for PROMIS physical health (37.6) and mental health (42.8) than the general population (50 ± 10). Patients reported 21% work time missed due to RP, and, among those not experiencing a recurrence, 48% reported their level of fear of pericarditis as “quite a bit” or “very much”.

Conclusions:

RP is a burden for patients, resulting in severe pain and impaired quality-of-life and work productivity. Unmet needs exist for safer and more effective therapies that reduce recurrences, symptoms (including pain), and patient burden.