BACKGROUND

ADPKD (Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease) is a severe genetic disorder with an estimated prevalence less than 4 patients per 10,000 inhabitants in EU (1). ADPKD is characterized by the formation of renal cysts, which progressively compress normal tissue with loss of renal function and damage to adjacent tissues (1,2). With progression of the disease, patients reach the terminal stage (ESRD) of chronic kidney disease (3). There is currently no overall consensus regarding prediction of the rate of progression in ADPKD, especially in the early stage of disease largely due to the high degree of inter-patent variability (4).

OBJECTIVES

This study aimed to adapt the ADPKD Outcomes Model (5,6) in order to compare the progression to ESRD and relative costs of disease, comparing patients treated with tolvaptan as to non-treated patients in Italy.

METHODS

Utilizing the structure of the ADPKD Outcomes Model (Figure 2) adapted to the Italian context, the analysis has simulated the evolution of ADPKD patients over a period of up to 80 years. The study was performed from both the Italian National Health Service (NHS) and social perspectives. The ADPKD Outcomes Model is based on a series of annual simulations at the individual patient level that allows clinical evolutions, such as the achievement of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) (Figure 3).

RESULTS

The model is able to incorporate country-specific pathways for ESRD affected patients, such as haemodialysis (HD), peritoneal dialysis (PD), transplantation and conservative therapy (FRT), together with their different costs and mortality rates (Figure 2). Clinical data on the treatment effect of tolvaptan was derived from the Tampopo 3:4 clinical trial (7).

It was also estimated (Figure 4) that, at 15 years, treatment with tolvaptan is estimated to increase the number of patients remaining in CKD stages 1-4 and reduce the number of patients in ESRD (i.e. 1070 non-treated in ESRD vs 361 patients treated with tolvaptan in ESRD at 15th year). Correspondingly, it was estimated that treatment with tolvaptan reduces the number of patients who need transplant, haemodialysis (HD), peritoneal dialysis (PD) or conservative care (Figure 5).

Moreover, patients treated with tolvaptan are estimated to be associated with a considerable reduction in direct and indirect health costs (at 15 years, €17,600,882 saved for direct cost and €5,829,239 for indirect costs). Accordingly, the cumulative cost per patient treated with tolvaptan is estimated to be lower than of non-treated patient, with an average difference per patient of €36,426, of which €27,133 for direct costs and €9,294 for indirect costs (Figure 6).

Breaking down the direct cost savings, Figure 7 shows these are distributed among the treatments of ESRD of the patients at 15 years the cumulative difference between the two arms of treatments is equal to €16,622,166 for HD, €2,004,383 for PD, €2,723,423 for transplant, €582,134 for conservative care.

CONCLUSIONS

The use of tolvaptan in patients with ADPKD is estimated to permit a slowing down in the worsening of the disease, increasing life expectancy and the achievement of a considerable decrease in the direct and indirect health costs in the medium to long-term.