Disparities in Psychiatric Diagnosis and Treatment for Youth with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Analysis of a National US Medicaid Sample

Visit Article

OBJECTIVE: To estimate the national prevalence and racial/ethnic differences in psychiatric diagnoses and pharmacologic treatment in a US Medicaid beneficiary population of youth with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

METHODS: We included youth aged 10 to 18 years with a diagnosis of SLE (defined as ? 3 outpatient visit claims with an International Classification of Diseases, 9th ed. code of 710.0, each > 30 days apart) in the US Medicaid Analytic Extract database from 2006 and 2007. This database contains all inpatient and outpatient Medicaid claims from 49 states and the District of Columbia. We calculated the prevalence of psychiatric diagnoses and treatment, and used logistic regression to compare depression and anxiety diagnoses, antidepressant, and anxiolytic use among racial/ethnic groups.

RESULTS: Of 970 youth with SLE, 15% were white, 42% were African American, 27% were Latino, and 16% were of other races/ethnicities. Diagnoses of depression were present for 19%, anxiety for 7%, acute stress/adjustment for 6%, and other psychiatric disorders for 18%. Twenty percent were prescribed antidepressants, 7% were prescribed anxiolytics, 6% were prescribed antipsychotics, and 5% were prescribed stimulants. In adjusted analyses, African Americans were less likely than whites to be diagnosed with depression (OR 0.56, 95% CI 0.34–0.90) or anxiety (OR 0.49, 95% CI 0.25–0.98), or to be prescribed anxiolytics (OR 0.23, 95% CI 0.11–0.48).

CONCLUSION: We present population-level estimates showing high psychiatric morbidity in youth with SLE, but less prevalent diagnosis and treatment in African Americans. Mental health interventions should address potential racial/ethnic disparities in care.

Journal:

The Journal of Rheumatology

Authors:

Knight A, Xie M, Mandell D

Related Content

Identifying Targets for Improving Mental Healthcare of Adolescents with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Perspectives from Pediatric Rheumatology Clinicians in the United States and Canada
The Illness Experience of Youth with Lupus/Mixed Connective Tissue Disease: A Mixed Methods Analysis of Patient and Parent Perspectives
Barriers and Facilitators for Mental Healthcare in Pediatric Lupus and Mixed Connective Tissue Disease: A Qualitative Study of Youth and Parent Perspectives

Identifying Differences in Risk Factors for Depression and Anxiety in Pediatric Chronic Disease: A Matched Cross-Sectional Study of Youth with Lupus/Mixed Connective Tissue Disease and Their Diabetic Peers

Depression and anxiety and their association with healthcare utilization in pediatric lupus and mixed connective tissue disease patients: a cross-sectional study