

## DIRECT COSTS OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD) IN TURKEY: A PANEL APPROACH

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### OBJECTIVES

COPD is a major public health problem in Turkey with high cost implications for the Social Security Institution (SSI). **It is a major cause of mortality and morbidity besides its high incidence and prevalence. Variety of the treatment approaches may lead to differentiation of clinical practices and thus financial impact of these differences may be higher than expected.**

This study aimed at estimating the direct cost of COPD treatment based on Global Initiative for Lung Disease (GOLD) classifications of disease severity.

### METHODS

In the absence of a database, a panel approach was adopted to estimate direct costs from real world data. A survey was designed to obtain the type, amount and duration of resources used in the treatment of COPD according to each GOLD group.

Five key opinion leaders with wide knowledge of clinical practice completed the survey. Diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, emergency and hospitalization costs were included. The costs of resources used in each GOLD group for diagnosis, treatment and monitoring were calculated by using the SSI's price tariff.

### RESULTS

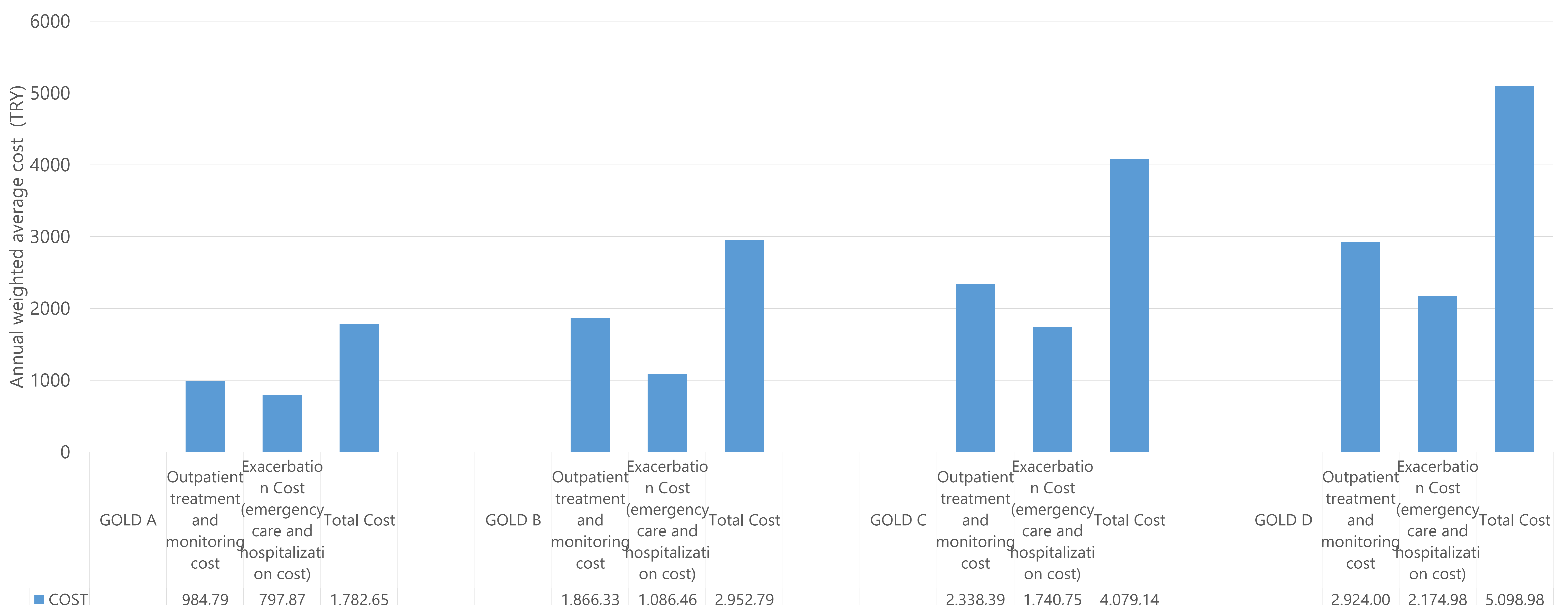
The annual weighted average cost per patient for GOLD A was 1,782.65 TL (776€). The costs were 2,952.79 TL (895€) for GOLD B, 4,079.14 TL (1,237€) for GOLD C and 5,098.98 TL (1,546€) for GOLD D.

Overall cost to treat exacerbations was lowest in the GOLD A patients and highest in the GOLD D patients due to higher number of exacerbations in the latter group (Figure 1).

### CONCLUSION

COPD is a major cause of mortality and morbidity especially in countries with high smoking rates. Cost of exacerbations comprise an important share of total costs, indicating a need for effective prevention strategies.

**Figure 1:** Annual weighted average cost per patient per GOLD categories



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