

ABSTRACT

Background

Prevalence and economic burden Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is increasing in Sri Lanka. The issue has been further magnified by the emergence of CKD of unknown etiology (CKDu). This study aimed to determine the out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) and the catastrophic health expenditure (CHE) among CKD patients managed at Provincial General Hospital (PGH) Kurunegala.

Method

A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 300 participants in the renal- ward, renal clinic, and the hemodialysis unit of PGH Kurunegala. Intervieweradministered-questionnaire gathered the data. The OOPE (direct health care cost and non-health care costs, and indirect cost) and the proportion of catastrophic health expenditure(CHE) due to CKD was calculated. The CHE was estimated using ratio between out of pocket total medical expenditure and total household income. The thresholds were considered as 25% and 40%.

Results

Majority were male (65.8%) and the mean age was 56 years (SD 12.4). Direct nonhealth care cost was the major cost component contributing to OOPE. The mean OOPE for an inpatient, clinic and hemodialysis was Rs.18,495.00, Rs.6,316.00 and Rs.16,187.00 per patient per month respectively. Nearly 36% of the participating households experienced CHE at the 25% threshold level. It was 23.2% at 40% threshold level. The proportion of CHE, considering the 25% CHE threshold was 53.8% inpatient, 14.9% clinic and 48% hemodialyzed patients. Considering the 40% threshold level, 34.6%, 7.5% and 29% of inpatient, clinic and hemodialyzed patients experienced CHE. Age, gender and income level were significantly associated with CHE ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion

The OOPE and the proportion of CHE was high amongst patients obtaining services for CKD at PGH Kurunegala.

Key words : CKD, Household economic burden, Out of pocket expenditure, Catastrophic health expenditure.