

Supplementary Material

Patient out-of-pocket medical expenses over 2 years among Queenslanders with and without a major cancer

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Table S1. Baseline characteristics by cancer and matched comparison groups

Non-cancer groups include high GP users defined as ≥ 12 visits to a GP comprising the following MBS items: 3–51, 195, 197, 199, 597, 599, 2497–2559, 5000–5067. CI, confidence interval; BMI, body mass index; N/A, not applicable; –, no *P* value due to these being variables used in population matching. Data are presented as *n* (%) unless otherwise stated

	Cancer group <i>n</i> = 419	High GP-user group <i>n</i> = 419	High GP v. Cancer group <i>P</i> value	General population group <i>n</i> = 421	General population v. Cancer group <i>P</i> value
Cancer type^A					
Melanoma	186 (44)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prostate	106 (25)				
Breast	77 (18)				
Colorectal	28 (7)				
Lung	22 (5)				
Gender: female ^A	183 (44)	183 (44)	–	185 (44)	–
Age: mean (95% CI) ^A	59.8 (59.1, 60.5)	59.9 (59.2, 60.6)	–	59.9 (59.1, 60.6)	–
Marital status: married or de facto ^A	340 (81)	340 (81)	–	340 (81)	–
Private health insurance: yes ^A	309 (74)	309 (74)	–	311 (74)	–
Current working status^A					
Full or Part-time work	230 (55)	230 (55)	–	232 (55)	–
Not working	189 (45)	189 (45)		189 (45)	
Highest education					
High school	194 (46)	202 (48)	0.25	193 (46)	0.97
Trade or diploma	105 (25)	105 (25)		104 (25)	
University degree	90 (21)	71 (17)		96 (23)	
Missing	30 (7)	41 (10)		28 (7)	
Smoking status					
Current	35 (8)	32 (8)	0.44	31 (7)	0.56
Ex-smoker	165 (39)	153 (37)		155 (37)	
Never	218 (52)	230 (55)		235 (56)	
Missing	1 (0.2)	4 (1)		0 (0.0)	
Number of alcoholic drinks per week					
None or <1	125 (30)	177 (42)	0.001	165 (39)	0.07
2–6	130 (31)	125 (30)		121 (29)	
7–20	123 (29)	77 (18)		97 (23)	
≥ 21	39 (9)	37 (9)		37 (9)	
Missing	2 (0.5)	3 (0.7)		1 (0.3)	
Hours of sleep (h)					
≤ 7	280 (64)	267 (64)	0.83	269 (64)	0.96
≥ 8	143 (34)	144 (35)		145 (34)	
Missing	6 (1.4)	8 (2)		7 (1)	
Self-rated health compared to others					
Excellent	68 (16)	33 (8)	<0.001	63 (15)	0.81
Very good	169 (40)	126 (30)		174 (41)	
Good	134 (32)	154 (37)		125 (30)	
Fair	40 (10)	86 (21)		52 (12)	
Poor	6 (1)	17 (4)		5 (1)	

	Cancer group <i>n</i> = 419	High GP-user group <i>n</i> = 419	High GP v. Cancer group <i>P</i> value	General population group <i>n</i> = 421	General population v. Cancer group <i>P</i> value
Missing	2 (0.5)	3 (1)		2 (0.5)	
Stress score past year ^B					
1–3	131 (31)	108 (26)	0.08	132 (31)	0.56
4–5	108 (26)	91 (22)		90 (21)	
6–7	96 (23)	109 (26)		99 (24)	
8–10	82 (20)	107 (26)		97 (23)	
Missing	2 (0.5)	4 (1)		3 (1)	
Fruit and vegetable intake					
Below recommended	166 (40)	158 (38)	0.8	138 (33)	0.059
Meets one of fruit or veg	219 (52)	225 (54)		234 (56)	
Meets recommended	34 (8)	36 (9)		49 (12)	
BMI category					
Underweight	6 (1)	3 (1)	0.004	3 (0.7)	0.3
Normal	122 (29)	111 (26)		114 (27)	
Overweight	179 (43)	142 (34)		168 (40)	
Obese Class I	72 (17)	101 (24)		80 (19)	
Obese Class II and above	40 (10)	62 (15)		56 (13)	

^AThe groups were matched on these variables.

^BLower scores represent a lower level of reported stress.

Table S2. Multivariable generalised linear model (GLM) model of patient out-of-pocket costs (\$AUD; $n = 762$)

The GLM was tested with other forms and link functions, and the gamma family and log link functions performed best with the diagnostic tests used. These included v-fold comparisons, the normal plot of residuals, Pregibon link test, Pearson's correlation test and v-fold cross validation. CI, confidence interval; ref, referent; –, no P value

	Mean cost ratios (95% CI)	Adjusted mean (95% CI)	P value
Major cancer			
No (high GP users)	1.00 (ref)	\$1882 (\$1627, \$2137)	–
Yes	1.86 (1.56, 2.21)	\$3499 (\$3104, \$3894)	<0.01
Age	1.01 (1, 1.02)		0.02
Gender			
Female	1.00 (ref)	\$2500 (\$2228, \$2772)	–
Male	1.13 (0.96, 1.34)	\$2836 (\$2473, \$3199)	0.14
Marital status			
Married or de facto	1.00 (ref)	\$2732 (\$2482, \$2981)	–
Widowed, separated	0.90 (0.69, 1.17)	\$2450 (\$1790, \$3110)	0.69
Never married	0.99 (0.68, 1.44)	\$2706 (\$1726, \$3686)	0.69
Private health insurance (PHI) status			
No PHI	1.00 (ref)	\$854 (\$701, \$1006)	–
Have PHI	3.88 (3.17, 4.74)	\$3310 (\$2991, \$3629)	<0.01
Education			
High school	1.00 (ref)	\$2549 (\$2210, \$2887)	–
Trade or diploma	1.16 (0.95, 1.41)	\$2950 (\$2488, \$3412)	0.15
University degree	1.05 (0.85, 1.3)	\$2683 (\$2254, \$3111)	0.63
Self-rated health compared with others			
Excellent	1.00 (ref)	\$2682 (\$1895, \$3469)	–
Very good	0.95 (0.69, 1.31)	\$2537 (\$2172, \$2902)	0.74
Good	1.04 (0.75, 1.43)	\$2779 (\$2396, \$3163)	0.83
Fair	0.98 (0.69, 1.38)	\$2622 (\$2135, \$3108)	0.90
Poor	1.81 (1.08, 3.01)	\$4844 (\$2809, \$6878)	0.02