Investigation
The overall prevalence and incidence rate were adjusted for age and gender, based on known prevalence and incidence is higher for adults than for children and adolescents.

Epilepsie 3.0%
Prevalence and incidence was found to be higher in Germany than reported in previous studies.

2.0%

1.674
1.070
0.888

UCB Pharma, Slough, UK
Pfäfflin

Picot M
Male/female: 1.516/1.371 (0.670/0.643 for focal epilepsy).

Male/female: 1.259%/1.845% (0.751%/0.661% for focal epilepsy).

Forsgren
Male/female: 2.171%/1.845% (0.751%/0.661% for focal epilepsy).

Hauser WA, et al.
Adjusted for age and gender based on the German population, prevalence for the German population 0,860%

Incidence and prevalence of epilepsy in Germany

Results

Conclusions

Using this claims data source, the prevalence and incidence was found to be higher in Germany than reported in previous studies. Therefore, the resulting healthcare burden of epilepsy is expected to be larger than previously estimated.

Background
- Epilepsy is one of the most frequent neurological diseases.
- No precise up to date data about the epidemiology of this disease in Germany are available.

Objective
- To quantify the prevalence and incidence of epilepsy in Germany in 2013 for epilepsy and focal epilepsy, and investigate age- and gender-specific numbers in that respect.

Methods
- Analysis was based on claims data of 2.7 million members of a regional German statutory health insurance fund (AOK PLUS).
- Analyses were carried out for epilepsy in general (ICD10-Code G40.-) and for focal epilepsy (ICD10-Code G40.0/G40.1/G40.2) separately.
- Patients were classified as prevalent if they had received at least one inpatient and/or confirmed outpatient diagnosis of epilepsy or focal epilepsy in 2013.
- Patients were considered to have incident epilepsy in 2013 if they had not received any antiepileptic medication and any epilepsy diagnosis 6 months before the first observed epilepsy diagnosis in 2013.
- The overall prevalence and incidence rate were adjusted for age and gender, based on known characteristics of the German population in 2013.
- In a sensitivity analysis, patients were only classified as prevalent/incident if they had received at least one prescription of an antiepileptic medication in 2013 in addition to the required epilepsy diagnosis.

Results

PREVALENCE
Prevalence of epilepsy and focal epilepsy in different age groups

- In this database, epilepsy prevalence was estimated to be 1.998% (0.703% for focal epilepsy).
- Male/female: 2.171%/1.845% (0.751%/0.661% for focal epilepsy).
- Adjusted for age and gender based on the German population, prevalence for the German population is slightly lower: 1.907% (0.653% for focal epilepsy).
- Male/female: 2.151%/1.674% (0.739%/0.573% for focal epilepsy).
- The sensitivity analysis resulted in a prevalence of 1.426% for epilepsy (0.599% for focal epilepsy).
- Male/female: 1.532%/1.333% (0.639%/0.564% for focal epilepsy).

INCIDENCE
Incidence of epilepsy and focal epilepsy in different age groups

- In our claims data sample, epilepsy had an incidence of 4.286 cases/1,000 person-years (1.265 for focal epilepsy).
- Male/female: 4.860/3.781 [1.366/1.175 for focal epilepsy].
- Adjusted for age and gender based on the German population, incidence for the German population is slightly lower in total: 4.194 cases/1,000 person-years (1.152 for focal epilepsy).
- Male/female: 4.878/3.505 (1.358/0.953 for focal epilepsy).
- The sensitivity analysis resulted in an incidence of 1.439 cases/1,000 person-years for epilepsy (0.656 for focal epilepsy).
- Male/female: 1.516/1.371 (0.670/0.643 for focal epilepsy).

Conclusions
- Prevalence and incidence was found to be higher in Germany than reported in previous studies (prevalence: 0.6%-0.8%, incidence: 43 to 82 per 100,000).1-5 The sensitivity analysis was done to meet the uncertainty of disease coding, especially for epilepsy in general (ICD10-Code G40.-); results for prevalence/incidence were still higher than previously reported.
- Contrary to literature, incidence for the population <15 years is lower than in older age groups.1
- Men had a higher prevalence and incidence of epilepsy than women.
- Prevalence and incidence is higher for adults than for children and adolescents.
- Healthcare burden of epilepsy is expected to be larger than previously estimated.

References
UCB Pharma-sponsered. Author disclosure: S Borghi, P Gibel, and L Jooers are employees of UCB Pharma. 1 Wilke has acted as consultant for Bausch & Lomb, Biogen, BD, DS, UCB Pharma, Novartis, Sanofi-Aventis, Bristol Myers Squibb, Pfizer, and other pharmaceutical companies. A Groth declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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