MANAGEMENT OF ASTHMA AMONG UNSELECTED ADULT ASTHMA PATIENTS IN GERMANY

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Background. Population-based data on asthma care process measures (PM) are scarce, particularly with respect to non-medication aspects of care. Methods. Data from two population-representative German national health surveys (GEDA 2010, N=22050 and DEGS1 2008-2011, N=7987) were used. Current drug utilization was assessed in DEGS1; information on non-medication asthma care PM and care context (DMP enrollment, asthma-specific scheduled outpatient care visits) was available in GEDA 2010. Differences in asthma care PM according to patient-level characteristics and care context among adults with asthma (18-79 years) were analyzed by multiple logistic regression. Results. Among asthma patients with current utilization of drugs for obstructive airway diseases, inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) were used by 74.5% as opposed to only 38.4% of all asthma patients. Regarding non-medication PM, asthma self-management plans were least likely provided (27.3%), particularly among those with primary education (18.5%). Higher proportions of participants receiving non-medication care services was found in relation to DMP enrollment (e.g., adjusted odds ratio 3.43, 95% CI 2.15-5.46 for self-management plan); similar results were seen among those with an asthma-specific scheduled outpatient care visit. Conclusions. Population-representative health surveys provide a unique data source to extend insight into current state of asthma care provided to unselected patients.