Abstract

There is an ever-growing appreciation of the high cost of cancer care in the United States. The National Cancer Institute, along with other federal agencies, provides estimates on the likely medical costs. The data is based on information gathered by SEER-Medicare. The methods involved in deriving these estimates are being updated and will be discussed in this presentation.

‘Financial Toxicity’ as a term is associated with the expenses, anxiety and loss of confidence when confronting large, unpredictable costs. Beyond the effect spiraling costs has on patient care, recent work by Scott Ramsey et al. (2013) and Mateo Banegas et al. (2016) has shown that bankruptcy and medical debt is affecting working-age cancer survivors in the US. Empirical work using the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) on wealth measures such as financial assets, debt, net worth, debt-to-assets ratio and debt-to-income will also be presented and discussed in light of efforts to combat ‘Financial Toxicity’.