



EPIDEMIOLOGY

HOW THE FEAR OF RECOURSE CLAIMS INFLUENCES PRESCRIPTION BEHAVIOUR, ESP. THE APPLICATION OF ALLERGEN IMMUNOTHERAPY

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Background: Allergen immunotherapy is quite a cost intensive therapy and mostly covered by patients' statutory health insurance. Therefore recourse claims for physicians are possible. Research on recourse frequency and impact on immunotherapy prescription is absolutely rare.

Aim: Exploring the real frequency of regress claims in a dermatological setting and to assess its impact on general prescription behaviour and immunotherapy.

Methods: Physicians of the Psoriasis-Praxisnetz Süd-West e.V. (n=222) participated in a web based questionnaire study investigating dermatology and medical law. The survey had two parts. The second part was only filled in, if an interest in medical law was indicated during the first pol.

Results: Overall, 66 dermatologists participated in this study, that on average had a more than 10 year work experience. Most participants were from Bavaria, Baden-Wuerttemberg or Rhineland-Palatinate. 28.8% (n=19) had already experienced a regress claim. Of these, 73.7% (n=14) stated, that the experienced regress claim changed their prescription behaviour. Half of these participants (n=8) further stated, that the fear of a possible recourse affected their prescription behaviour. Only four from the participants that had not experienced a regress in the past, declared that fear had a possible influence on their prescription behaviour. Missing values excluded, this leads to a substantial hesitation in the usage of complex new treatments in physicians who experienced a prior recourse (50.0% vs. 16.7%). However, the usage of allergen immunotherapy was not impacted by the experience of a regress claim; all 19 used it.





Key Message: These results indicate that fear of a potential regress can change physicians' prescription behaviour but doesn't seem to have an effect on the prescription of allergen immunotherapy. Physicians who experienced a regress may benefit from specific training on relevant regulations in order to make sure that patient care is not impacted by fear of further regresses unnecessarily.

