

Does pharmaceutical industry trick us?

A price comparison of Infliximab across European countries

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Background



- **Infliximab**: monoclonal antibody
- For the treatment of autoimmune diseases (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis)

- 2013: **biosimilar** available
- 1st biosimilar for a complex biological product
- For **inpatient** use only (intravenous injection)



- 2020: **new biosimilar**
- **Slightly different** (strength, pharmaceutical form, administration route)
- Thus: **outpatient use possible** (subcutaneous injection)



Have both biosimilars the same price?

Methods



EURIPID database used to gain price information: www.euripid.eu



Check for countries with price data of both biosimilars



Price data of 13 countries eligible for comparison

Results

Price per package*:

Infliximab 100 mg: € 321



Infliximab 120 mg: € 360

*based on prices of 9 countries at manufacturer price level

Price for treatment cycle**:

Infliximab 100 mg: € 722



Infliximab 120 mg: € 1,440

**for an 8-week maintenance therapy for rheumatoid arthritis, based on prices of 9 countries at manufacturer price level

Conclusion

- **Price per package** indicates nearly a **similar price** of 100 mg and 120 mg
- When considering a whole **treatment cycle**, the **price for 120 mg is twice as high** compared to 100 mg



○ BUT:

- **Infliximab 120 mg can shift treatment** from inpatient to outpatient sector
- Thus: public payers should **not only consider differences in prices and costs, but also perceived benefits from a certain treatment**



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