ABSTRACT

Duchenne muscular dystrophy: Incidence, prevalence, sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of patients admitted to Teletón Chile from 1993 to 2013

Background: Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in their natural evolution leads to loss of ambulation between 7 and 13 years of age and death in adolescence close to 20 years. The estimated global incidence is of 1/3,500 male births; data in Chile is unknown. Objective: To estimate the incidence, prevalence of DMD and to describe clinical and sociodemographic characteristics of patients admitted to Teletón-Chile between 1993 and 2013. Patients and Method: A descriptive, retrospective, longitudinal study with review of medical records and database at Teletón. 462 DMD patients were admitted during the study period. Results: The incidence and prevalence in Teletón was of 1/6,558 male live births and the prevalence of 11.51 [CI 10.46 to 12.56] 10^4 men < 30 years. The average age of first consultation was 6.7 ± 3.4 years, with mild or moderate functional level (65.6%). At the end of the study 67% were wheelchair users, with medical prescription at 10.8 ± 3.3 years. 52.2% of patients were classified as extreme poverty, attended at Teletón centers of the central region (55.2%), and current average age of 14.7 ± 5.7 years. 35.9% of DMD patients were dead at an average age of 18.1 ± 3.5 years. Conclusion: The incidence and prevalence rates of DMD live births for males < 30 years admitted to Teletón, have declined between 1993-2011; as well as the average age of first consultation. The loss of ambulation and the average age of death are comparable with the current literature.

Key words: Duchenne muscular dystrophy, incidence, prevalence, neuromuscular disease.