**Supplemental Figure 1. General medical service use for scoliosis - Number of patients (WM: Western medicine; KM: Korean medicine)**



The number of patients was calculated based on patients with primary diagnosis of scoliosis who received treatments included in NHI covered items.

**Supplemental Figure 2. General medical service use for scoliosis - Annual expense per patient (WM: Western medicine; KM: Korean medicine)**



Annual expense per patient was calculated by dividing the total expense for applicable year by the number of patients for that year (Annual expense per patient = total expense for applicable year / the number of patients for that year); Annual expense per patient was calculated based on patients with primary diagnosis of scoliosis who received treatments included in NHI covered items; In cases where patients included in this study received both treatments covered and not covered by NHI, only data related to treatments covered by NHI were calculated.

**Supplemental Figure 3. General medical service use for scoliosis - Total expense (WM: Western medicine; KM: Korean medicine)**



Total expense was calculated based on patients with primary diagnosis of scoliosis who received treatments included in NHI covered items; In cases where patients included in this study received both treatments covered and not covered by NHI, only data related to treatments covered by NHI were calculated.

**Supplemental Figure 4. General medical service use for scoliosis - Number of cases (WM: Western medicine; KM: Korean medicine)**



The number of cases was calculated based on patients with primary diagnosis of scoliosis who received treatments included in NHI covered items; In cases where patients included in this study received both treatments covered and not covered by NHI, only data related to treatments covered by NHI were calculated.

**Supplemental Figure 5. General medical service use for scoliosis - Average visit per patient (WM: Western medicine; KM: Korean medicine)**



Average visit per patient was calculated by dividing the number of total cases for applicable year by the number of patients for that year (Average visit per patient = Number of total cases for applicable year / the number of patients for that year); Average visit per patient was calculated based on patients with primary diagnosis of scoliosis who received treatments included in NHI covered items; In cases where patients included in this study received both treatments covered and not covered by NHI, only data related to treatments covered by NHI were calculated.

|  |
| --- |
| **Supplemental Table 1. ATC code by category of drugs for scoliosis** |
| **Category** | **ATC code** |
| Anti-inflammatory analgesics (NSAIDs) | M01A |
| Antipyretic analgesics (Acetaminophen) | N02A, N02B |
| Gastrointestinal drugs | A03A, A03B, A03F, A16A |
| Antacids | A02A, A02B, A02X |
| Other central nervous system drugs | N01A, N01B, N03A, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A, N07AX02 |
| Skeletal muscle relaxers | M03A, M03B |
| Adrenal hormone | H02A |
| Other cardiovascular drugs | B01A, C01C, C04A, C05C, C08C |
| Enzymes | M09AB |
| Other | A01A, A04A, A05A, A05B, A06A, A07B, A10A, A11B, A11E, A12A, B02BA01, B03A, B05XA07, C03A, C03C, G04C, J01C, J01D, J01X, M01A, M05B, M09AX, R01B, R03C, R05C, R05D, R05F, R06A |
| Blood products | A12B, B02A, B02B, B05A, B05B, B05X, V07A |
| Autonomic nervous system drugs | A03AB02, N07A |
| Oxygen | V03A |
| Narcotics | N01AH, N02A |
| ATC: Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical; The ATC codes were coded based on the WHO Guidelines for the anatomic/therapeutic/chemical (ATC) classification and defined daily dose (DDD) assignment 2020 23rd edition; |

|  |
| --- |
| **Supplemental Table 2. General medical service use for scoliosis - patients in South Korea** |
| Year | Type of visit | Number of patients | Total cases | Total expense | Per-patient expense | Per-case expense | Total care | Avg days in care per patient | Total visit | Avg visits per patient |
| 2010 | Total | 3,848 | 10,360 | 419,209 | 108.94 | 40.46 | 12,891 | 9.87 | 12,193 | 9.38 |
| WM | 3,613 | 9,209 | 399,054 | 110.45 | 43.33 | 11,468 | 3.24 | 10,825 | 3.06 |
| KM | 235 | 1,151 | 20,155 | 85.77 | 17.51 | 1,423 | 6.63 | 1,368 | 6.32 |
| 2011 | Total | 4,051 | 11,026 | 450,199 | 111.13 | 40.83 | 14,736 | 11.41 | 12,942 | 10.73 |
| WM | 3,776 | 9,174 | 418,354 | 110.79 | 45.6 | 12,735 | 3.48 | 10,961 | 3.01 |
| KM | 275 | 1,852 | 31,845 | 115.8 | 17.2 | 2,001 | 7.93 | 1,981 | 7.72 |
| 2012 | Total | 3,933 | 12,648 | 502,243 | 127.7 | 39.71 | 15,220 | 10.97 | 13,909 | 10.44 |
| WM | 3,598 | 10,615 | 462,495 | 128.54 | 43.57 | 12,989 | 3.71 | 11,738 | 3.36 |
| KM | 335 | 2,033 | 39,748 | 118.65 | 19.55 | 2,231 | 7.26 | 2,171 | 7.08 |
| 2013 | Total | 3,671 | 11,507 | 490,639 | 133.65 | 42.64 | 14,280 | 10.79 | 12,361 | 10.11 |
| WM | 3,359 | 9,492 | 453,151 | 134.91 | 47.74 | 12,195 | 3.75 | 10,314 | 3.19 |
| KM | 312 | 2,015 | 37,488 | 120.15 | 18.6 | 2,085 | 7.04 | 2,047 | 6.92 |
| 2014 | Total | 3,857 | 14,240 | 459,789 | 119.21 | 32.29 | 17,202 | 11.77 | 14,910 | 10.74 |
| WM | 3,500 | 11,984 | 411,581 | 117.59 | 34.34 | 14,770 | 4.37 | 12,579 | 3.74 |
| KM | 357 | 2,256 | 48,209 | 135.04 | 21.37 | 2,432 | 7.4 | 2,331 | 7 |
| 2015 | Total | 3,710 | 14,048 | 507,451 | 136.78 | 36.12 | 16,799 | 12.25 | 14,880 | 11.4 |
| WM | 3,400 | 11,932 | 459,958 | 135.28 | 38.55 | 14,505 | 4.36 | 12,650 | 3.81 |
| KM | 310 | 2,116 | 47,493 | 153.2 | 22.44 | 2,294 | 7.9 | 2,230 | 7.59 |
| 2016 | Total | 3,653 | 12,908 | 520,518 | 142.49 | 40.33 | 15,172 | 11.09 | 13,902 | 10.4 |
| WM | 3,368 | 11,172 | 487,335 | 144.7 | 43.62 | 13,336 | 4.04 | 12,153 | 3.69 |
| KM | 285 | 1,736 | 33,183 | 116.43 | 19.11 | 1,836 | 7.05 | 1,749 | 6.72 |
| 2017 | Total | 3,184 | 11,547 | 475,455 | 149.33 | 41.18 | 13,093 | 11.38 | 12,039 | 10.87 |
| WM | 2,958 | 10,041 | 438,444 | 148.22 | 43.67 | 11,500 | 3.98 | 10,483 | 3.64 |
| KM | 226 | 1,506 | 37,011 | 163.77 | 24.58 | 1,593 | 7.39 | 1,556 | 7.23 |
| 2018 | Total | 2,865 | 10,359 | 502,724 | 175.47 | 48.53 | 12,334 | 13.72 | 10,859 | 12.62 |
| WM | 2,668 | 8,739 | 466,565 | 174.87 | 53.39 | 10,598 | 4.05 | 9,239 | 3.54 |
| KM | 197 | 1,620 | 36,159 | 183.55 | 22.32 | 1,736 | 9.66 | 1,620 | 9.08 |
| WM: Western medicine; KM: Korean medicine; All cost-related results presented in this study were converted to the 2018 level based on healthcare and medical service price index adjusted for healthcare inflation rate and KRW:USD exchange rate (see Supplemental Table 3). |

|  |
| --- |
| **Supplemental Table 3. Annual average KRW-USD exchange rate and price level of health expense**  |
| **Year** | **KRW/USD** | **Healthcare & medical service price index** |
| 2010 | 1156.00 | 0.9345 |
| 2011 | 1107.99 | 0.9510 |
| 2012 | 1126.76 | 0.9597 |
| 2013 | 1095.04 | 0.9631 |
| 2014 | 1053.12 | 0.9699 |
| 2015 | 1131.52 | 0.9820 |
| 2016 | 1160.41 | 0.9918 |
| 2017 | 1130.48 | 1.0005 |
| **2018** | **1100.58** | **1.0000** |
| All cost-related results presented in this study were converted to the 2018 level based on healthcare and medical service price index adjusted for healthcare inflation rate and KRW:USD exchange rate; This information is available on the following site: Korean Statistical Information Service (<http://kosis.kr>). |