The UK contribution to Real World Research: Review of published data at ISPOR, Madrid 2011
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Introduction
- Real World Data (RWD) is becoming increasingly important in decisions that affect patients’ access to medicines.
- The vast majority of pharmaceutical companies based in the UK are actively involved in generating or using RWD to inform HTA of their products.
- The UK is considered as an advantageous environment for the conduct of real world health care studies due to:
  - The UK health technology assessment (HTA) processes which have a global impact on healthcare decision making.
  - The unique cradle-to-grave health care provided by the UK NHS.
  - The many existing NHS healthcare databases and disease registries, including CPRD which is considered one of the “gold standard” clinical data sources in the world.
  - The Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (ABPI) through its RWD Campaign Team are working to support the UK research environment to become a centre of excellence and more attractive for RW Research.
- In order to establish an indicator of the current influence of the UK in global RW research a review of all abstracts presented at ISPOR 2011 was undertaken.

Methods
- All abstracts presented at the ISPOR 14th Annual European Congress in Madrid, Spain in 2011 were reviewed by a single researcher by searching the ISPOR OUTCOMES RESEARCH DIGEST (http://www.ispor.org/research_study_digest/index.asp).
- Abstracts reporting RWD data were classified according to therapeutic area, type of study, setting, source of data and methodology, country where undertaken, country of authors and involvement of commercial sponsors.

Results
- A total of 1455 abstracts were reviewed.
- 278 abstracts describing RW studies were identified.

Figure 1: Proportion of ISPOR abstracts 2011 describing RW studies

- 89% of all RW studies were undertaken in a single country
- 12% of all RW studies were conducted in the UK
- A further 8% of studies included UK centres in an international study

Figure 2: Countries providing data for RW studies

- 56% of all RW studies used databases as their data source, 19% patient medical records and 16% surveys or questionnaires

Figure 3: Data sources used for RW studies

- 79% of all RW studies were retrospective in design

Figure 4: Types of RW studies conducted

Conclusions:
- RW Studies presented at the ISPOR European Congress 2011 were most often undertaken in a single country and involved a database study design
- The USA is the most prolific source of RW studies
- Of the rest, the UK was the source of RW data in twice as many studies as any other country, lending weight to the opinion that the UK provides an excellent environment for conducting RW studies.
- As the demand for Real World Research continues to grow, the UK has the opportunity to play a leading role in terms of the provision of RW data and the conduct of research

References:
1. The collection and use of real world data: Results from a 2009 survey of British Pharmaceutical companies. Poster present at ISPOR Annual European Congress 2010
2. The Vision for Real World Data – Harnessing the Opportunities in the UK. ABPI White Paper September 2011

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