

Home testing and management of OSA reduces costs without impacting clinical outcomes

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Home testing of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) followed by initiation of home treatment with an auto-titrating continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) device reduced costs compared with in-laboratory testing and titration without negatively impacting clinical outcomes, researchers have shown in a new study presented at the American Thoracic Society International Conference.

"While the use of home testing and initiation of CPAP therapy is increasingly common, studies of its cost-effectiveness are scarce," said lead author Charles W. Atwood, Jr., MD, associate professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and director of the Sleep Disorders Program of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. "In our randomized study, sleep-related costs were substantially lower for patients who underwent home testing and treatment initiation than for those who underwent laboratory testing, and this cost saving was accomplished without sacrificing clinical quality."

The study enrolled 296 subjects, 113 of whom began CPAP at home and 110 of whom began in a laboratory. Assessment with the Functional Outcomes of Sleep Questionnaire, a disease-specific quality of life questionnaire designed to assess the impact of sleep disorders on activities of everyday living and the extent to which these abilities are improved by treatment, showed no significant difference in outcomes between groups.

Costs, categorized as sleep-related, pharmaceutical, laboratory, hospital, and other costs, were measured over 2.75 years. The cost of home testing was significantly lower than the cost of lab testing (\$4057 vs \$4621, $p=0.01$), Costs did not significantly differ between groups for the other categories.

"Our study confirms that home testing and treatment initiation for [sleep disorders](#) can be accomplished cost-effectively without negatively affecting [clinical outcomes](#)," said Dr. Atwood. "These results support the continued use of home management of these disorders."

More information: Abstract 55606, Cost-Effectiveness Of Home Management Of Obstructive Sleep Apnea: The Veterans Sleep Apnea Treatment Trial , Scientific Abstract , 16.06 - Sleep Disordered Breathing: Other Outcomes (SRN) , C.W. Atwood¹, S.T. Kuna², K.C. Little¹, S. Hin², R. Gupta², I. Gurubhagavatula², H. Glick³; ¹VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System - Pittsburgh, PA/US, ²Philadelphia VA Medical Center - Philadelphia, PA/US, ³University of Pennsylvania - Philadelphia, PA/US

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