

Binge eating disorder creates significant health care burden

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(HealthDay)—Health care costs are similar for patients with binge eating disorder (BED) and those with eating disorder not otherwise specified without BED (EDNOS-only), and are significantly higher compared with costs of matched patients without an eating disorder (NED), according to a study published online May 8 in the *International Journal Eating Disorders*.

Brandon K. Bellows, Pharm.D., from VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, and colleagues compared one-year [health care costs](#) and utilization for [adult patients](#) with BED and EDNOS. Data were included for 257 BED patients, 743 EDNOS-only patients, and 823 NED patients, matched for age, sex, [body mass index](#), depression diagnosis, and index month of first diagnosis.

The researchers found that in 2011 U.S. dollars, the mean total one-year costs were \$33,716, \$37,052, and \$19,548 for BED, EDNOS-only, and NED patients, respectively. BED patients had higher one-year total health care costs compared with EDNOS-only (\$5,589 higher; P = 0.06) and matched NED patients (\$18,152 higher; P

"Patients with BED had significantly higher total health care costs than patients with NED, indicating that BED places a significant burden on the health care system," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to pharmaceutical companies. The study was funded by Shire Development and Anolinx.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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