MODELING THE POPULATION YEARS OF LIFE SAVED BY INTRODUCING A REDUCED-RISK PRODUCT IN THE U.S. AND IN JAPAN

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Introduction

Philip Morris International has developed a population health impact model (PHIM) allowing estimation of the reduction in smoking-attributable mortality and years of life saved due to the introduction of a reduced-risk product (RRP). The assessment of harm reduction due to the introduction of an RRP is a function of the risk associated with the product for the individual and its prevalence in a population.

The overall reduction in tobacco-attributable deaths and years of life saved (YLL) from lung cancer (LC), ischemic heart disease (IHD), stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was estimated by using the PHIM for men and women in the U.S. and Japan under assumptions of RRP uptake in these markets.

Methods

The methodology used to assess the population health impact of introducing an RRP in a country has been previously described [1] and involves two components:

- **Prevalence Component**
  The prevalence (P) component is a Markov chain state-transition model that starts in a specified year with a given current smoking status and age range who have a distribution of current smoking habits representative of the national population at that time. This hypothetical population is followed over discrete time intervals for a defined length of time, under both a “null scenario” and an “RRP scenario,” using different sets of tobacco use transition probabilities (TTP).

- **Epidemiological Component**
  The epidemiological (E) component uses the tobacco use histories to estimate, for each individual, the relative risks (RR) of LC, IHD, stroke, and COPD compared with those of never tobacco users at each year of follow-up and for each scenario. The estimation involves an extension of the negative exponential model (NEM), described in detail elsewhere [2], which allows for multiple changes in tobacco use habits.

Apart from the tobacco use histories, the NEM also requires estimates of the effective dose for current RRP use and dual use, compared to that for current cigarette smoking, as well as estimates of the RR for continued smoking and of the quitting half-life (tQ) for each disease, with H being the time after quitting when the excess RR (RRP−1) reaches half of that for continued cigarette smoking.

In the RRP scenario, at each simulated year, an individual can be a never tobacco user, current cigarette smoker, current RRP user, current dual user (RRP and cigarettes), or former tobacco user. These five groups have an associated effective dose (f) of, respectively, 0, 1, f(1), (1+f)/2, and 0 [3].

The NEM is used to calculate the excess relative risk for each disease using the effective dose, the excess relative risk, and the disease-specific half-life of excess risk (tQ).

Separately for each scenario, the average RRs for each disease for individuals of a given sex and age group are calculated for each follow-up year, from which proportions of tobacco-attributed deaths can be derived. These are converted to numbers using national mortality estimates by sex, age group, and year.

Estimated Years of Life Lost and Saved

In addition to estimating effects on numbers of deaths and death rates, one can also compare years of life lost (YLL) between both scenarios and calculate YLS as described in [1]). Assuming that the expected time of death in a certain age group is the middle of that age range and a life expectancy of 75 years, the years lost by a death in age range i can be calculated. With N being the number of deaths attributable to tobacco product use in age range i, YLL is calculated by summing the product of C and N:

\[ YLL = \sum_i C_i \times N_i \]

The final result is expressed in YLS for all diseases for the entire simulation period as the difference between YLL calculated for the RRP and null scenarios.

Results

- **Null Scenario**
  Null scenario TTPs have been developed and verified for the U.S. and Japan. U.S. TTPs are the same for males and females; Japan TTPs differ per gender due to smoking prevalence differences.

- **RRP Scenario for the U.S.**
  This simulation assumes that 17% of the smoking population would be using RRP within 10 years following its commercial launch (46% RRP users and 7% dual users).

- **RRP Scenario for Japan**
  This simulation assumes that 55% of the smoking population would be using RRP within 10 years following its commercial launch (46% RRP users and 7% dual users).

Conclusions

- The introduction of an RRP can lead to substantial impact on population harm reduction in the U.S. and Japan over a 20-year period by reducing smoking-attributable deaths and, consequently, increasing YLS.

- It has been calculated that 0.97 to 1.15 million years of lives in the U.S. and 0.82 to 1.1 million lives in Japan could have been saved between 1990 and 2010.

References