

THE USE OF HOSPITAL MORBIDITY DATABASE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON CHURG-STRAUSS SYNDROME.

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Introduction: Churg-Strauss syndrome (CSS) is a small-vessel necrotizing vasculitis typically characterized by asthma, lung infiltrates, hypereosinophilia. The use of hospital morbidity database is an important element of epidemiological analysis of this rare disease. The study is the first such analysis in Poland and may provide the opportunity to compare the data in a European context.

Objectives: This study was undertaken to assess the incidence of CSS in Poland and to analyze factors related to its epidemiology.

Patients and methods: We conducted a retrospective, population-based study using hospital discharge records with a CSS diagnosis. CSS incidence was estimated based on data from a Polish hospital morbidity study carried out by the National Institute of Public Health. Data were collected between 2008 - 2013 and covered 953 records. The final sample was comprised of 344 patients (206 females, 138 males) with first-time hospitalizations for CSS.

Results: The average annual incidence of CSS in Poland was estimated to be 1.5 per million. The median and mean age was 51 and 49 years, respectively. Higher incidence of CSS was observed in more urban than rural regions. **Conclusions:** Hospital discharge records may be an useful and important element of epidemiological studies on CSS.