

# Pilot study: Tobacco-attributable direct costs in two hospitals in Santiago, Chile

## Estudio piloto: Costos directos atribuibles al tabaquismo en dos hospitales de Santiago

Martínez-Gutiérrez, María Soledad

Vanegas, Jairo L.

Reveco, Sandra U.

Valenzuelas, Rodrigo R.

Arteaga, Oscar H.

**Background:** Tobacco is the fourth cause of the global burden of disease, accounting for 79.9 million loss of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2001. In 2002, tobacco-attributable mortality in Chile represented 17% of total mortality. **Aim:** To estimate the direct cost of tobacco in Ischemic Heart Disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Lung Cancer, explore patients' disposition to answer a health related expenses questionnaire, validate the instruments used and determine an adequate sample size for an upcoming study. **Material and methods:** Socio-demographic and health care related variables were investigated among patients attending two public hospitals for ischemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer, in a cross-sectional study. Costs were estimated using the national public health insurance price list and market prices. Tobacco-attributable fraction was then applied to calculate the tobacco-attributable cost of each disease. **Results:** The