HOW MUCH DO LAB TESTS COST? ANALYSIS OF LACOR HOSPITAL LABORATORY SERVICES

Antonella Nino 1, 2

1. ASIPo Lacor Project. 2. Laboratory Department, Lacor Hospital

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Abstract

An analysis of the laboratory activity costs was done in the Laboratory Department of Lacor Hospital in order to calculate the gross cost of each test and to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the service. The study is a retrospective analysis on the data related to the financial year 2002-2003. The costs that have been considered are: materials, salaries, equipment and general costs. A table has been outlined with the total cost of each test. The biggest contribution to the laboratory activity cost is given by general costs, which account for 45% of the total, followed by the materials (21%), and then by the salaries and equipment which contribute for 17% each. Most of the tests belong to the medium cost level, that is between 1000 and 2500 USH.

Results

The annual expenditures for the analyzed factors, related to the year 2002-2003 are shown in Tab.2.

All the calculations were made on the statistic of Laboratorial activity of the same year.

The number of tests done in that period was 191,148, with an increment of 23% compared with the previous year. The LWU value for each test is listed in the attached table n.3. The cost of each test was found to be 34 USH. The same cost, anyway, includes a reimbursement for all the tests as a rate of reagents “misused” by the students of Lab. Assistant Training course for their practical education. An alternative method to get this cost could have been by summing the amount of the invoices for the Laboratory during the analyzed year, but not all the invoices were available and, in addition, some items used in this year were bought in the previous one.

The bigger costs of personnel and equipment which have the same expenditure is due to...