

Subspecialists Handle 20% of Acute Care Visits

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WASHINGTON – More than a quarter (28%) of all U.S. acute care visits are made to the emergency department, while slightly less than half (42%) take place in primary care physicians' offices.

Another 20% of acute care visits are made to subspecialist offices, lead study

author Dr. Stephen R. Pitts said at the briefing.

It appears that the more severe a complaint, the more likely a patient will seek care in the ED, said Dr. Pitts of the department of medicine at Emory University, Atlanta, noting that, "too often, patients can't get the care they need, when they need it, from their family doctor."

Two-thirds of acute care ED occurred on weekends or on weekdays after office

hours, according to the study, which appears in the journal's September issue.

The authors based their study on data from the three federal surveys of ambulatory medical care in the outpatient, ED, and physician office setting.

Presenting complaints including stomach and abdominal pain, chest pain, and fever dominated the list of what brought patients to the ED. Those presenting to a primary care physician for acute care

most frequently complained of cough, throat symptoms, rash, and earache.

Overall, emergency physicians took care of 11% of all ambulatory care visits, yet make up only 4% of the physician workforce, the authors said. ■

Disclosures: One of Dr. Pitts' coauthors disclosed that she received a training grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; others reported no conflicts.



But it first needs to fit your patient's life.

Important Safety Information, continued

Warnings, continued

Starting or changing insulin therapy should be done cautiously and only under medical supervision.

Hypoglycemia

Hypoglycemia is the most common adverse effect associated with insulins, including Humalog. Hypoglycemia can happen suddenly, and symptoms may be different for each person and may change from time to time. Severe hypoglycemia can cause seizures and may be life-threatening.

Other Side Effects

Other potential side effects associated with the use of insulins include: hypokalemia, weight gain, lipodystrophy, and hypersensitivity. Systemic allergy is less common, but may be life-threatening. Because of the difference in action of Humalog, care should be taken in patients in whom hypoglycemia or hypokalemia may be clinically relevant

Important Safety Information, continued

Other Side Effects, continued

(eg, those who are fasting, have autonomic neuropathy or renal impairment, are using potassium-lowering drugs, or taking drugs sensitive to serum potassium level).

For additional safety profile and other important prescribing considerations, see the accompanying Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information.

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insulin lispro injection (rDNA origin)

