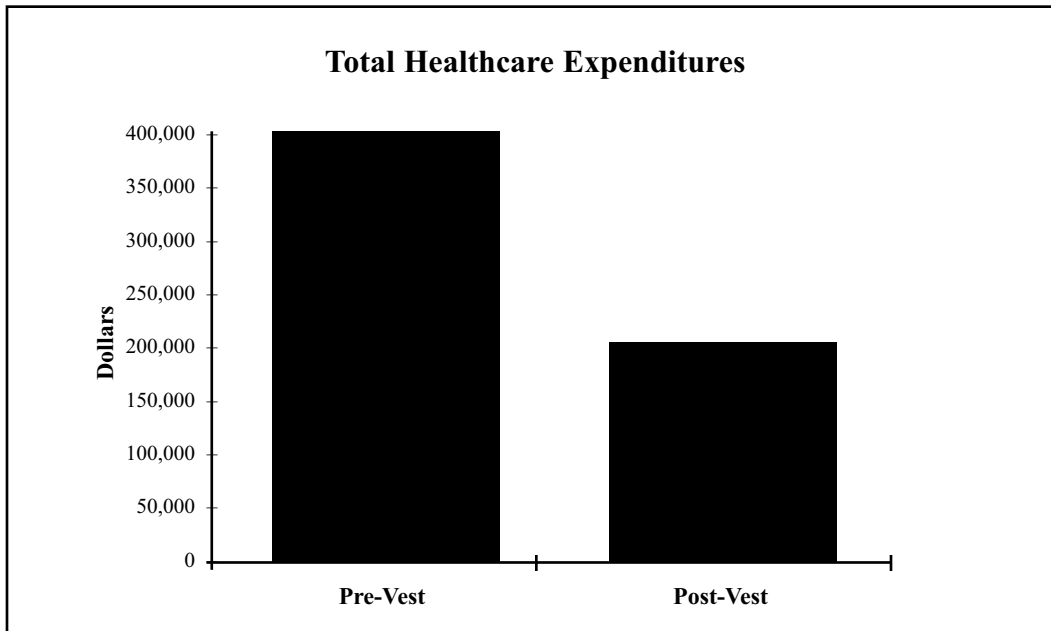


Cost Analysis

Ohnsorg F. A cost analysis of high-frequency chest wall oscillation in cystic fibrosis. *Am J Res and Crit Care Med* 1994; Suppl 149(4): A669.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBS/MN) conducted an independent cost analysis to evaluate the impact of The Vest™ airway clearance system (aka the ABI Vest® and the ThAIRapy® Vest) on total health care expenditures. This retrospective, record-based analysis took place within the group of cystic fibrosis (CF) patients insured by BCBS/MN. Records of all users of The Vest system were selected for analysis (N=23). The analysis consisted of comparing the direct health care expenditures during a 12-month pre-Vest time period to the direct health care expenditures during a 12-month post-Vest time period. The cost of The Vest system was included as a health care expenditure during the post-Vest time period. Each patient served as their own control. Five hundred fifty-two (552) months were analyzed and BCBS/MN found a 49% reduction in aggregate health care costs following use of The Vest system, which translated to a savings of over \$200,000.

Conclusion: The Vest system is associated with a trend toward cost effectiveness. Decreases in health care expenditures can be expected through more accessible, consistent and effective airway clearance therapy in the home.



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