As a common reason to seek medical eye care, dry eye significantly increases health care resource utilisation and direct medical costs.1

**$467 USD per patient annually**
Average patient-reported spending for dry eye medicines in the U.S.2

**Up to $1.86 Million USD**
Estimated annual cost to EU and U.S. health care systems of 1000 dry eye patients managed by an ophthalmologist (Figure 2).3 However, this underestimates real cost, as it doesn’t include patients who self-manage or are managed by their general practitioner.

**$5.5 Billion USD**
U.S. direct medical cost of managing patients with dry eye4

Dry eye disease is also a significant clinical problem in developing countries and those with emerging economies; however, less than 3% of affected individuals receive treatment5, which may contribute to a substantial quality of life and economic burden in these areas.

Figure 1: Dry eye management costs per patient in select countries, in 2021 U.S. dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Direct Medical Cost Per Year (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>$2,433 CAD (9.6% of total cost)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>$645 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>$1,093 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>$1,296 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>$1,863 USD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Severe dry eye disease (DED) has increased health care resource utilisation and direct medical costs compared to mild or moderate dry eye.6

Dry eye contributes to productivity loss, responsible for a substantial portion of the economic burden of dry eye disease.7-10 A major way patients may have difficulty reading or using screens,11 and may avoid workplace environments that aggravate symptoms.12

Productivity loss increases with increasing severity of dry eye.12

An online survey of 477 dry eye patients in the U.S. revealed considerable productivity loss regardless of severity of disease (Figure 2).2

![Figure 2: Reported productivity loss while working due to dry eye disease.2](image)

A growing body of evidence supports the impact of DED on work productivity, with several recent articles from the U.S.6,13,14,15,16,17,21,22,23,24,25,26 demonstrating that the severity of dry eye disease was significantly associated with work productivity loss.24

- High OSDI scores were associated with high absenteeism and presenteeism, with an increase of 4.3% in work impairment and 4.8% in activity impairment for each 10-unit difference in OSDI (p<0.001).14
- Of 443 responders, 75.9% reported DED affected their productivity, with 62% reporting productivity was reduced to 2 hours daily, 47.9% reported difficulty focusing.12

Dry eye results in considerable economic burden to society

**$8,084 USD**
Estimated societal cost to Japan per year per office worker with dry eye disease10

**$16,306 USD**
Per-patient societal economic burden in the U.S. due to lost productivity21

From 2013 to 2019 in China, yearly prescriptions for DED nearly doubled, to ~22,000.15+

Table: Annual costs related to DED from 1997 to 2015 in China.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost (C)</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total annual cost</td>
<td>$4,675</td>
<td>$33,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean cost per visit</td>
<td>$4.104</td>
<td>$5.346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean cost per patient</td>
<td>$6.104</td>
<td>$10.220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 1997, the cost of DED per patient has tripled in Spain.24

**$112.9B to $180.5B USD**
Estimated healthcare cost in China per year3

For patients with ophthalmic conditions such as dry eye, there is a higher prevalence of depression, which has been associated with 1.5x the cost of care compared with those without depression.3

**References:**