

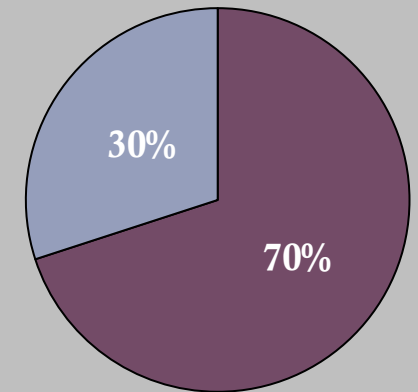
COST OF REPEATED AMYLASE TESTING IN ACUTE PANCREATITIS

Dr Nada Elzahed
(nada.elzahed@nhs.net)
Mr Muhammad Sajid
(Muhammad.sajid1@nhs.net)

Serum amylase test in acute pancreatitis gets repeated many times unnecessarily. Cost of amylase test is 1.1£ as an IP and 4.81£ as an OP.

- **Aim:** To reduce costs of unnecessary repeated amylase testing in acute pancreatitis.
- **Methods:** Data was collected for 121 admissions with the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis. Patient demographics (age and sex), aetiology, initial amylase level and number of repeated amylase tests per admission were noted.

- **Results:** Mean age was 59-years-old, M:F ratio was 59% to 41%. 60% of cases of recurrent acute, 43% related to GB, 43% idiopathic and 14% alcohol excess. For the 121 admissions, 70% had repeated amylase tests, some having it up to 7 times, amylase was done 254 times with a cost of 279.4£, which is a 52% increase in the cost than if it was not repeated.



- Amylase repeated (up to 7 times)
- Not repeated

Conclusion: Amylase levels in acute pancreatitis shouldn't be repeated after a positive result as levels fall shortly after onset and therefore do not predict severity nor recovery. Cost of amylase testing can be reduced by >52% if recommended testing is followed.