

## *Why carry out this study?*

- According to the World Health Organization (2002), approximately 8% of all deaths, 56% of ischemic heart disease, and 18% of cerebrovascular disease are caused by high levels of cholesterol.
- Hypercholesterolemia and associated vascular diseases have a significant economic and socio-sanitary impact. For instance, 8% of total health spending in Spain (2012) was as a result of cardiovascular diseases.
- This review addresses the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia, the usual clinical management of lipid profile, and the attained control of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels in patients with high cardiovascular risk from Spain.

## *What was learned from the study?*

- An elevated prevalence of hypercholesterolemia can be found in patients at high cardiovascular risk.
- Although most patients are receiving pharmacological treatment, rates of lipid control continue to be low, both in primary and secondary prevention.

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