diseases (22.3%) and the Indian ethnic group had the highest proportion for 5 or more chronic diseases (22.7%). Majority of the patients were in the age range of 61–70 years (33.7%). The highest proportion of patients with 1 chronic disease was the 21–30 years age group (71.9%), while the highest proportion of patients with 5 or more chronic diseases were from the >80 years age group (33.9%).

Table 2 shows the annual cost per capita by number of chronic diseases. The median annual cost per capita increased with the number of chronic diseases from 1 chronic disease of SGD277 to 5 or more chronic diseases of SGD895 (USD1 = SGD1.38 as of 30 June 2017). The greatest percentage increment in median cost was from 2 to 3 chronic diseases (an increment of 43.0%).

Up to 76.6% of the annual healthcare cost was incurred by patients with multimorbidity (3 or more diseases) who made up 62.4% of the study population (Fig. 2).

Table 3 shows the difference in annual cost per capita in patients with and without multimorbidity. The median annual healthcare cost per capita for patients...