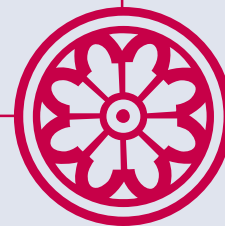


INAHTA

newsletter

Volume IX
Number 4

HTA Makes a Difference – Impact on Policy and Practice

| Agency | Topic | Policy Issue | Impact of HTA |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| AHFMR, Canada | Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment (HBOT) | One HBOT unit is operating in Edmonton, Alberta. Should a second HBOT unit be placed in Calgary? | Second HBOT unit not funded based on HTA demonstrating that increased benefits did not justify increased costs |
| ANAES, France | Screening for Prostate Cancer | Should prostate cancer screening be implemented in France? | Mass screening campaign not implemented in France |
| NCCHTA/ NICE, UK | Coronary Artery Stents | When should NHS surgeons and cardiologists use coronary artery stents in treating ischemic heart disease? | NICE guidance encouraging routine use of stents during coronary angioplasty in all suitable cases recommended |
| SBU, Sweden | Routine use of pre-operative tests in elective surgery | What is the value of preoperative routines for elective surgery? What is current practice in Sweden? | HTA demonstrating little or no benefit for the overwhelming majority of patients led to nearly abandoned routine preoperative testing in Sweden |

Impact of HTA on Policy: Examples From INAHTA Members (Source: the survey by Liz Adams, VA TAP, USA)

In October 2001, the US Veteran Affairs' Technology Assessment Program (VA TAP) surveyed INAHTA members for examples of how health technology assessments (HTA) affected their health system policies.

The survey results were used to illustrate for VA managers the value of HTA in health policy making. (See results enclosed or visit www.inahta.org)

Go to Berlin!

ISTAHC 2002
June 9-12

Visit www.istahc2002.de
for latest update on the conference
program and activities.



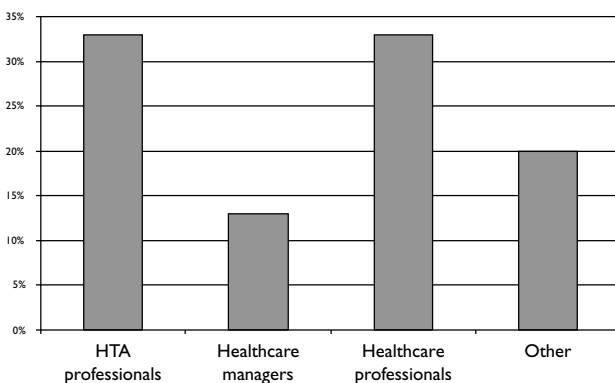


Update From www.inahta.org

News@lert service

More than 100 people have subscribed to the INAHTA News @lerts. The e-mail news notification service was introduced by INAHTA in October.

HTA and healthcare professionals represent the majority of subscribers (see diagram). Researchers, librarians, health economists, consultants, and journalists are among others subscribing to the INAHTA News @lerts.



Website statistics

- In total, 13 000 unique visitors have logged on to the INAHTA website since December 2000.
- The top five domains and countries of the visitors: Networks (.net), Spain (.es), Commercial (.com), Canada (.ca), and Sweden (.se).
- Operating systems Win 98 and 2000 are used by 50% of the visitors, and the latest web browser, Microsoft Explorer 5.x, is used by 68%.
- Most of those searching the web for information on HTA-related topics find inahta.org through the search engines where the website is registered: Google.com (42%), Altavista (17%), Yahoo (12%), Lycos (5%).

CAHTA (Spain) Prepares 2002 Research Agenda

In 2002, CAHTA will issue its 4th public announcement for funding of health services research. Past programs (1996, 1998, 2000) have financed 64 projects totaling around 1.9 million Euros. The

most recent call for research topics resulted in 116 initial proposals from the Catalan medical and scientific community. Cardiovascular topics (11), psychiatry (11), ophthalmology (9), imaging diagnostics (8), and healthcare management were the leading areas for proposed research.

The proposals for research funding are subject to an explicit priority-setting process. First, CAHTA “pre-selects” the topics, eliminating those that are too general, merging those having identical or similar endpoints, adding topics according to the Health Plan, and filling gaps in research identified by CAHTA. Then, the US Institute of Medicine criteria (prevalence of clinical condition, cost of technology, variation in use, burden of disease, potential of changing health results and costs, possibility of clarifying ethical, legal, or social aspects) are applied to score the priority of each topic.

Read more about the prioritization process at CAHTA: *Informatiu* (CAHTA Newsletter), Issue 22, April 2001; or contact Dr. Marta Aymerich, maymeric@olimpia.scs.es

German Language HTA Newsletter

The first edition of a new German-language HTA newsletter was released in October 2001. The newsletter, published by ITA/ Austria, appears monthly and only electronically.

The new German-language HTA newsletter aims to inform a broader German-speaking public of new HTA publications, ongoing projects, and emerging technologies. The newsletter intends to synthesize key English and Spanish publications for health administrators and politicians.

The HTA Database will be scanned regularly. Topics to be covered in the newsletter will be selected according to their relevance for German-speaking, insurance-based countries. The newsletter consists of an editorial on evaluating programs or policies, short articles on published assessments (preferably those carried out in more than one HTA agency), information on ongoing projects, mini-assessments of emerging technologies, information on conferences, and other topics.

You may access the German-language HTA newsletter via the ITA homepage www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/hta/ or via an (e-) mailing list (cwild@oeaw.ac.at).

THIS IS HunHTA

The Unit of Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment



“Assessment of healthcare technologies should be promoted through active international collaboration, but the importance of context demands that evaluation is carried out locally.”

Dr. Laszlo Gulacsi, MD, MSc, PhD
Director, HunHTA

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Current budget in thousand USD | 30 |
| Number of permanent staff | 2 |
| Number of consultants | Variable |
| Number of ongoing technology assessment projects | 5 |

History and structure

The Unit of Health Economics and Technology Assessment in Health Care (HunHTA) is part of the Department of Public Policy and Management, Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration. HunHTA was established in April 2001 to provide education to students and to offer training in health economics and health technology assessment to professionals in the Hungarian healthcare system. Furthermore, HunHTA promotes HTA research into new and existing healthcare technologies, sharing results with professional societies and governmental agencies. It provides assistance in the interpretation and adaptation of HTA findings and facilitates implementation of results into practice. An International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and a Board of Trustees (BT) support these efforts.

Mission

Investing in HTA yields good returns, both monetary and non-monetary. This, however, requires a strong and dedicated HTA agency, a pool of trained professionals, and an appropriate infrastructure. Our mission is to make this happen in Hungary.

How HunHTA works

The responsibility of the BT is to identify and select topics that are of interest from an HTA perspective. This process is supported by ISAC. The HTA research program and final report will be approved by both BT and ISAC. To assure transparency and accountability, all results will be made available to the public.

HunHTA's main activities are:

- *Education and training:* HunHTA, in collaboration with ISAC, aims to establish education and training programs for healthcare professionals to remedy the short supply of HTA specialists in Hungary. Developing local competence is the crucial next step.

- *International collaboration:* Joining the mainstream of HTA, sharing results, using what is already available, and working as part of INAHTA are the most cost-effective ways of doing HTA. Two-way transfer of knowledge and learning offer a way forward.

- *Working with colleagues:* HTAs will only be as useful as decision-makers, professionals, and the public value them. HunHTA aims to establish proper cooperation with each of these groups. Engaging with, and changing the culture of, health care is the focus of our activity.

Dissemination activities

HunHTA's dissemination strategy is currently under construction, but already it publishes newsletters and organizes conferences and workshops. The main channel for dissemination is working for and with professional societies and governmental and non-governmental agencies, providing HTA assistance to achieve their goals since they have better infrastructures to disseminate results.

Current projects

- Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the prevention and treatment of high-risk patients with hypertension, and coronary and cerebrovascular diseases in Hungary
- Breast cancer screening and medication
- Surgical site infection in surgical departments and nosocomial pneumonia in intensive care units
- Prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers
- Cost-effective guideline and indicator setting

These projects will usually make use of assessments performed in other countries.

Future plans

- Evaluation of the barriers to HTA utilization: the role of technical knowledge, organizational aspects and cognitive factors
- Bone marrow transplantation
- Medication for rheumatoid arthritis
- Low molecular weight heparin therapy





Latest INAHTA Briefs

- Issue 2001/26:** Immunoglobulins in Transplant Medicine...
(ITA, Austria)
- Issue 2001/27:** Treating Asthma and COPD (SBU, Sweden)
- Issue 2001/28:** The Efficiency of Long-term Psychotherapy
(GR, the Netherlands)
- Issue 2001/29:** Diagnostic Ultrasound in Primary Care
(SMM, Norway)
- Issue 2001/30:** Prenatal Screening... (GR, the Netherlands)
- Issue 2001/31:** Intensive Intervention Programs for
Children with Autism (AHFMR, Canada)
- Issue 2001/32:** Psychosocial Aspects of Ultrasound
Examinations During Pregnancy
(SWISS TA, Switzerland)
- Issue 2001/33:** Low-end Scanners (CEDIT, France)
- Issue 2001/34:** Population Screening for Colorectal Cancer
(GR, the Netherlands)
- Issue 2001/35:** Brachytherapy of Localized Prostate
Cancer (CEDIT, France)
- Issue 2001/36:** Brachytherapy for Prostate Cancer
(CAHTA, Spain)
- Issue 2001/37:** Sacral Neuromodulation in the Treatment of
Urinary Incontinence (CAHTA, Spain)
- Issue 2001/38:** Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CAHTA, Spain)

Conferences, Meetings, Seminars

7th Annual International Meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)

Crystal City,
Arlington, VA, USA
May 19-22, 2002

For more information: www.ispor.org

18th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care (ISTAHC)

Berlin, Germany
June 9-12, 2002

For more information: www.istahc2002.de

Annual Conference of the European Health Management Association (EHMA)

Gdansk, Poland
June 26-29, 2002

For more information: www.ehma.org

Recently Published Reports From INAHTA Agencies – A Selection

Comparison of the effectiveness of inhaler devices in asthma and chronic obstructive airway disease: a systematic review of the literature (English), October 2001, **NCCHTA**

IVF: Ovarian stimulation with clomiphene citrate vs. long down regulation and FSH, (Danish, English summary), October 2001, **DACEHTA**

Subgroup analyses in randomized controlled trials: quantifying the risks of false-positives and false-negatives (English), September 2001, **NCCHTA**

Treatment for urinary incontinence in Denmark (Danish, English summary), September 2001, **DACEHTA**

Behavioral interventions for preschool children with autism (English), August 2001, **CCOHTA**

A population-based cohort study of surveillance mammography after treatment of primary breast cancer (English), July 2001, **CCOHTA**

Novel antipsychotics for patients with bipolar disorder: a systematic review (English), July 2001, **CCOHTA**

Decisions on the status of health technologies (English), April 2001, **AHFMR**

Cost-effectiveness analysis of treatments of sleep apnea syndrome in the Basque country (Spanish, English summary), March 2001, **OSTEBA**

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