

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Objective

To be able to determine whether an article about an economic analysis meets the following criteria:

1. Is the study valid?
2. What are the results?
3. Do these results apply to your clinical practice?

Assignment

1. Read the scenario and attached article.
2. Read the attached guidelines for reading articles concerning economic analysis.
3. Critically appraise the attached article using the worksheet.
4. Decide how you would respond to the problem after appraising the article.

Clinical Scenario

You are a retired general surgeon. After 25 years of clinical practice you are now working as a consultant for an integrated managed care company in the United States located on the West Coast. This company has over 10 million health plan members, 180,000 employees, 14,000 physicians, 41 medical centers, \$35 billion in annual operating revenues and \$1.4 billion in net income.

In recent years, there have been an increasing number of requests on behalf of prostate cancer patients for proton beam therapy, an exceedingly costly treatment modality. Going forward, potential considerations include building a proton beam facility, joining a consortium or simply paying for patient treatment on an individual basis. To guide the decision of the Board of Directors of the managed care company on whether to cover health plan members you are asked to review evidence on the cost-effectiveness of proton beam therapy as a treatment modality for clinically localized prostate cancer.

Relevant Materials:

1. Goeree R, Drummond MF, Moayyedi P, Levine, M. Chapter 28.2 Advanced Topics in Moving from Evidence to Action; Economic Analysis. In Guyatt G, Rennie D, Meade MO, Cook DJ, Editors, *Users' Guide to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice*, 3rd Edition, New York, NY: McGraw-Hill; 2015.
2. Konski A, Speier W, Hanlon A, Beck JR, Pollack A: Is proton beam therapy cost effect in the treatment of adenocarcinoma of the prostate? *J Clin Oncol* 2007, 25(24):3603-3608.
3. Thoma A, Sprague S, Tandan V: Users' guide to the surgical literature: how to use an article on economic analysis. *Canadian journal of surgery* 2001, 44(5):347-354.