

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS UNIT

Combined antiplatelet therapy versus aspirin alone in acute coronary syndrome

Objectives:

To learn to critically appraise and apply the results of an economic analysis in clinical practice.

Assignment:

1. Read the attached scenario
2. Develop the clinical question
3. Develop a search strategy for identifying an article such as this (and search for it if you feel like)
4. Determine the validity of the attached study or other studies you may find
5. Apply the results to your practice

Clinical Scenario:

You are the medical director of interventional cardiology at a large Academic Medical Center and one of the interventional cardiologist has asked for an appointment with you to discuss post-interventional care of patients with acute coronary syndromes in the hospital. The cardiologist, a well-respected individual who is loved by her patients, is concerned about the cost of treating patients with expensive antiplatelet therapy, Aspirin and Clopidogrel. However, she acknowledges that there is benefit from using Aspirin plus Clopidogrel over Aspirin alone in most patients who have had a recent acute coronary event. After a brief phone conversation with her you agree that this is an important issue that needs to be further investigated and you consider developing a policy for the cardiovascular institute.

You perform a search of the literature and find a cost-utility analysis that was recently published in a highly rated journal. You send the paper to the cardiologist and arrange for a meeting with her to review the issue and appraise the paper. Using your skills you acquired during last year's Evidence Based Clinical Practice Workshop you believe that you could make this a good learning experience for the cardiologist and together the two of you could develop a meaningful and important policy.

Enclosed Materials:

1. Guyatt G, Drummond R. *User's Guides to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence Based Clinical Practice*, 3rd Edition (JAMA). New York, NY: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc, 2015. 28.2 Moving from Evidence to Action. Economic Analysis.
2. Schleinitz M, Heidenreich P.A., Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Combination Antiplatelet Therapy for High-Risk Acute Coronary Syndromes: Clopidogrel plus Aspirin versus Aspirin Alone. *Ann Intern Med.* 2005;142:251-259.
3. Worksheet for the evaluation of an economic analysis.