

describing the process and results of the economic evaluation of tisagenlecleucel and axicabtagene ciloleucel and the challenges these evaluations raised.

**Methods.** Primary evaluations were submitted by the firms to be reviewed by HAS. The final analyses were submitted to the Committee of Economic Evaluation and Public Health (CEESP), composed of independent economists, clinicians and patients' representatives. The CEESP issued Opinions related to i) the methodological quality of economic evidence and ii) the cost-effectiveness and budget impact of the drugs under review.

**Results.** The estimated incremental cost-utility ratio (ICUR) of tisagenlecleucel were rejected, being based on insufficient clinical evidence to estimate and extrapolate the long-term progression and to compare tisagenlecleucel with alternatives. Thus, the CEESP concluded that tisagenlecleucel was not proved cost-effective. The estimated ICUR of axicabtagene ciloleucel at 114,509EUR/QALY vs. chemotherapies was associated with an acceptable level of evidence despite being based on a frail indirect comparison and limited data on quality of life. In a context where France has no official cost-effectiveness threshold, the CEESP considered axicabtagene ciloleucel ICUR to be "very high" and questioned the collective acceptability of the claimed price.

The CEESP stressed that the main source of uncertainty surrounding the ICUR estimates of both drugs was related to the lack of hindsight on effectiveness, especially in terms of overall survival and safety.

**Conclusions.** The economic evaluation of CAR-T cell therapies highlights the sources of uncertainty underlying the decision and the risk of inefficient resource allocation driven by limited clinical data. It calls for payment schemes accounting for the uncertainty, and effective collection of relevant post-marketing data.

## OP312 Developing A Tool-kit For Assessment Of Autism Spectrum Disorder

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**Introduction.** Before the coronavirus pandemic, children who were on the Early Years Neurodevelopment (EYND) assessment pathway and suspected to have possible Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), received clinic based appointments. This process included a parental interview by a doctor, a specialist speech and language therapy assessment, autism diagnostic observation schedule (ADOS), which were all carried out on hospital sites. These were postponed in March following national guidance. Our aim was to continue providing accurate evidence-based service for ASD diagnosis.

**Methods.** We utilised evidence-based telehealth methods to perform a specialist speech and language assessment in a child's home via video call. Parents were also invited to share videos of everyday activities via a secure portal. We could observe the child in a meaningful setting and witness functional impact of their needs. Each case is discussed by a multiagency panel based on DSM-V criteria.

Online training was undertaken by professionals to deliver the Brief Observation of Autism Symptoms (BOSA) based on the ADOS for COVID times. Parents were coached by the therapist to enable them to become the administrator, rather than a professional.

**Results.** Telephonic feedback from the first ten parents whose children underwent a telehealth assessment has been positive; the home was deemed more natural and for some less distressing than clinic. Formal patient surveys have been devised for both the telehealth and BOSA clinic assessments. Analysis is expected by the end of March.

To date we have been able to reach an outcome for thirty children, the diagnosis of ASD for twenty-four children and the other six received a diagnosis of global developmental delay or language disorder.

**Conclusions.** We expect that telehealth will reduce the number of assessments before an ASD diagnosis is made resulting in more prudent healthcare. The new methods have demonstrated clear increased parental participation.

## OP314 What Happened Next? Assessing Health Technology Assessment Impact In Scotland

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**Introduction.** The Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) set out to assess the impact of HTA products. Two questions were posed: Does advice from SHTG have influence? How is SHTG advice used?

**Methods.** SHTG adapted a tool developed by the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA). The INAHTA framework investigates indications of impact and categorizes outputs into levels of impact. Over three years, potential users of SHTG advice were contacted six to twelve months after advice was published and asked how the advice had been used. HTA outputs were categorized into the four levels of influence they achieved: 'major influence', 'some influence', 'some consideration' and 'no known influence'.

**Results.** HTA products were found to have been used in four main ways: 'informed discussion', 'referenced', 'informed policy' or 'directly informed practice'. Levels of influence had steadily increased over the three years assessed. The findings were well received by internal audiences, with particular interest in the various ways HTA recommendations had been used. There was also feedback about 'marking our own homework'. These results have informed a new SHTG strategy and supported clear messaging around the value of HTA.

**Conclusions.** SHTG has found a pragmatic, resource-light way to explore the impact of HTA outputs, which has proved valuable for driving strategy and messaging.

## OP316 Patients' Testimonials In The National Committee For Health Technology Incorporation In Brazilian Public Health System (Conitec) Meetings

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**Introduction.** The Department of Management and Incorporation of Technologies and Innovation in Health (DGITIS) acts as Conitec's Executive Secretariat. Among its attributions, it promotes the public/patient involvement in the health technology assessment (HTA) process. Recently, Conitec has been working on the inclusion of patient's testimonials about their illness experience in the plenary sessions, that is, the monthly meeting where technologies are assessed.

**Methods.** To support the action of including patient reporting in Conitec's HTA process, DGITIS developed research on HTA agencies websites worldwide. The main criteria was the inclusion of patients' reports in their Committee meetings. DGITIS contacted some of these agencies and requested a listserv question to the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) members. These findings supported the DGITIS for the inclusion of patient participation in Conitec's meetings, from the selection process to the actual participation.

**Results.** For the Conitec's HTA process, the patients' participation should occur in the prior session to the public consultation, guaranteeing the inclusion of their perspective since the recommendation process beginning. Hence, every demand for incorporation to be discussed at Conitec's meeting should be preceded by a public call for patients with the clinical condition. The DGITIS will also hold preparatory meetings, which will serve as moments for shared construction of knowledge and literacy.

**Conclusions.** The nomination process, so far, has been grounded as a consensus among the patients. Thus, Conitec acts as a mediator, connecting the involved stakeholders, in a way that they can autonomously organize themselves and indicate the main representative and an alternate one. With the inclusion of the patient's perspective in the Conitec's meeting, another form of patient participation was opened in the HTA process. Therefore, the consolidation of this participation space is feasible and contributes to enrich the Brazilian HTA process.

## OP318 Health Technology Assessment And Decision-Making Processes: The Purchase Of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology

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**Introduction.** Medical devices play an essential role in health care, but they are also a leading causes of increasing healthcare expenditures. The purchase of technologies and the determination of how and when they should be used are among the most important decisions made by decision-makers, at the institutional level.

The present research focuses on the Portuguese health system and sheds light on the characterization of decision-making process by those involved in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) purchases.

**Methods.** To characterize the decision-making process, results from forty questionnaires and twenty-seven semi-structured interviews with key decision-makers were merged, using a mixed method approach. To assess competences for decision-

making, a questionnaire was applied, and Exploratory and Confirmatory Factorial Analysis conducted.

**Results.** Cost and suppliers' characteristics are seen as the most important indicators to guide decisions. The decision is undertaken by a committee, in a bottom-up process, characterized by a bounded rationality, influenced by intuition and a consultant decision-maker. The reasoning and justification for selection of the committee members is unclear. The decision process is considered to be bureaucratic, time-consuming and long. Patients are negatively perceived as stakeholders in the process. Few studies were performed (mostly related to the workload of the Radiology Department) to support the decision and no national or international health technology assessment (HTA) study was used in the process, to guide decisions. Decision-makers have limited knowledge and training in areas of decision-making in the areas of health informatics, health economics and especially HTA. This may limit their ability to truly understand the future implications of their purchase decisions.

**Conclusions.** To foster HTA in decision-making processes, recommendations are made, in particular, to: (i) establish an HTA in-house unit, able to carry out studies considering the hospital context and aiming to inform managerial local decisions (ii) promote a team comprised of technology assessment multidisciplinary researchers but also professionals from the health institution able to carry out HTA studies (iii) foster common languages and values to increase uptake of HTA studies.

## OP321 The Scale And Variation Of The Impact Of COVID-19 On Prescribing Of Medicines In Primary Care In Wales

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**Introduction.** Prescribing of medicines in primary care in Wales has been exceptional in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the associated changes to the delivery of health services. The changes are likely to have harmful, albeit unintended, consequences, including disruption of pharmacy stock management; unpredictable changes in prescribing; and interruption to patients' supply of medicines and reduced medication adherence. Changes in prescribing are unlikely to be distributed evenly across the country or population. Therefore, this study aimed to identify changes in GP prescribing compared with previous years, the variation of these changes, and factors related to the variation in changes, to identify patient subgroups for whom the impact is disproportionate.

**Methods.** We identified medicines of interest where concerns around prescribing have been raised and, for each of these medicines, retrieved monthly prescribing data for each GP practice in Wales (N = 492). We then linked these data with other publicly available data (for example, practice size, indices of multiple deprivation, disease prevalence).

We developed a novel approach to measure the impact of COVID-19 on GP prescribing. We compared observed with expected prescribing volume projected via time series modelling and differences were related to patient and practice characteristics using general estimating equations.