

DEMANDS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR HTA IN GALICIA: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

❖ This study **AIMS** to explore the opinion of hospital managers and clinicians in Galicia (NW Spain) regarding the utility of the different products and services developed by the Galician HTA Agency, identify barriers and facilitators to the use of HTA and strategies to improve transferral of evidence.

- QUALITATIVE STUDY (December 2009-February 2010)

- *In depth semi-structured interviews of 20 experts intentionally selected (10 clinicians and 10 decision_makers)*

- *Inductive thematic analysis (2 blinded investigators)*

RESULTS

PERCEPTION OF USE OF HTA WITHIN THE GALICIAN HEALTH SYSTEM

The great majority of informants agree that HTA is:

- *Greatly used at the macro level (policy makers) to support decision making on introduction of new technologies*

- *Underused in clinical practice decision making*



GENERAL BARRIERS TO THE USE OF HTA IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

- Lack of adequate innovative technology management strategy in health care centres
- Lack of a global strategy and plan of action to promote HTA products
- Relationship between the health system and industry
- Negative attitude to evaluations made by a Health Care Management body
- General skepticism and lack of evaluation culture in health professionals
- Limitations of the HTA products

LIMITATIONS AND STRENGTHS OF AVALIA-T'S HTA PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

LIMITATIONS

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT REPORTS

- Low strength recommendations
- Results not adapted to local context
- Excessive elaboration times
- Lack of periodic updating
- Lack of perception of relevancy
- Lack of skills and evaluation culture

- Great awareness of its existence
- High quality of the reports
- Participation of various HTA organizations and researchers
- Exhaustiveness and rigorousness of the information
- Free public access

STRENGTHS

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

- Lack of periodic updating and adaptation to local context
- Lack of involvement of prestigious professionals in elaboration
- Trust in professional societies guidelines

- Perceived especially relevant to homogenize care and decrease clinical variability.
- Importance that recommendations are made by a management body.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (DETECTA-T)

- Unawareness
- Pressure from industry and trust in their information
- Lack of incentives and lack of feedback from collaborations
- Mistrust of horizon scanning detection network

- Perceived as highly relevant for hospital managers to determine usefulness of new technologies
- Responsibility of health professionals to be updated on new technologies
- Useful to give an answer to patient's demand on effective technologies

LIMITATIONS

MONITORED USE (CONDITIONAL COVERAGE)

- Skepticism because it is considered to slow down innovation
- Difficulties with implementation (workload, dedication time)
- Lack of feedback from collaborations
- Lack of financial and management support for recruitment of active collaborators

- Specific interest for health professionals that apply very innovative technologies
- Highly relevant for organization's that aim to become a referent in the field

STRENGTHS

POST-INTRODUCTION OBSERVATION

- Unawareness.
- Perception that not all medical specialties are relevant
- Problems related to workload and lack of time
- Lack of financial support
- Perception that methodology is complex and skills are lacking

- Perceived as a logic and necessary sequence of introduction.
- Perception that it is very useful to health professionals in order to identify real problems and reduce uncertainty
- Involvement of health professionals in all phases of the investigation (selection, study design and analysis of results)

OBsolete TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

- Skepticism regarding the feasibility of implementing report recommendations due to the different possibilities of incorporating new technologies in different health care settings

- Perception that is relevant for decision makers in order to decide on the exclusion of technologies
- Perception that it could be useful to guarantee the adoption of the most effective technologies

CONCLUSIONS

✓ Even though it is acknowledged that decision-making environments are context sensitive, we believe many of the findings and proposals could be applied to other contexts.