

**14^e Journée Internationale du Centre Cardio-Thoracique de Monaco
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Lazaro P*. Economic assessment in cardiology

Abstract

Health services are systems whose mission is to improve the health status of individuals and society. In last decades, these systems face challenges such as their increasing complexity, limited resources, fast innovation and diffusion of medical technologies, pressures from society and professionals at the demand side, and the lack of knowledge on the effects the above factors produce on costs and population health. In addition, health care expenditures have grown twice as fast as wealth in industrialized countries during the last years.

These problems have prompted cost containment as a key issue in health policy and, at the same time, have promoted the development of socioeconomic evaluation as a scientific activity in the frame of health services research. Socioeconomic evaluation tries to know if the sacrifice made by society, which devotes part of its limited resources to health care, maximizes the outcomes for population.

This talk explains basic concepts and methods of economic appraisal in health services which are illustrated with examples of clinical practice in cardiology. Usual appraisal methods are described; the relation between clinical outcomes of a procedure and its associated costs is emphasized to explain the analysis of the efficiency (cost-efficacy, cost-effectiveness, cost-utility, and cost-benefit); and finally a guide for socioeconomic evaluation in cardiology is provided.

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