

# Cost-Effectiveness of Teduglutide in Adult and Pediatric Patients with Short Bowel Syndrome in Argentina. A Markov Model Analysis

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## Background

- Teduglutide (orphan drug designation), an analogue of glucagon-like peptide 2, has been licensed for the treatment of short bowel syndrome (SBS) in patients 1 year of age and older following intestinal adaptation after surgery (1,2).
- SBS is an ultra-rare, long-term and potentially life-threatening condition requiring parenteral nutrition (PN). Patients on PN suffer severe complications like intestinal failure liver disease, catheter-related sepsis, liver and intestinal transplant or death (3-5).
- Several studies demonstrated that teduglutide reduces volume and/or days on PN which led to a reduction in severe complications in children and adults (5-9). Recent real-world data on teduglutide show meaningful rates of PN autonomy beyond the 24 weeks evaluated in the STEPS trials (Study of Teduglutide Effectiveness in PN-Dependent SBS Subjects), suggesting significant benefits on longer treatment durations (10-14).
- In Argentina, the most frequent intestinal anatomy in patients with SBS is colon in continuity (type III) (12-15). Interestingly, accumulating evidence suggests that type III patients have higher chances of PN autonomy and complete recovery of their quality of life, even still on teduglutide every other day or after its discontinuation (10-12).
- Teduglutide is a high-cost medication, with an estimated cost of ~300,000 USD per patient per year in Argentina. Comparatively, the cost of PN dependence is estimated to be ~121,000 USD per year for nutritional support alone.

## Objective

- To determine the cost-effectiveness of teduglutide in adult and pediatric patients with SBS in Argentina using a Markov Model Analysis

## Methods

- We developed independent Markov models for adults and children comparing teduglutide (TED) versus standard of care (SoC). Base-case analysis was performed using TreeAge Pro Healthcare 2022.
- The base case was presumed at age 40 (adults) and 12 (children) and to have short bowel syndrome requiring PN for 7 days/week. The time horizon used was lifelong (adults) and 5 years (children). A third-party payer perspective was taken, evaluating only direct costs to the healthcare system.
- Transition states were days in PN (from 7 to 0), catheter-related sepsis, intestinal transplant, and death (**Figure 1**). The model was informed with data from the STEPS trials and observational studies published up to June 2022. Utilities were obtained from published data and costs from local sources (in US dollars). Parameter values are listed in **Table 1**.
- Effectiveness was expressed in Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALYs). The willingness-to-pay threshold considered was 1 GDP per QALY (8,810 USD).

Table 1: Parameter Values Used in the Models

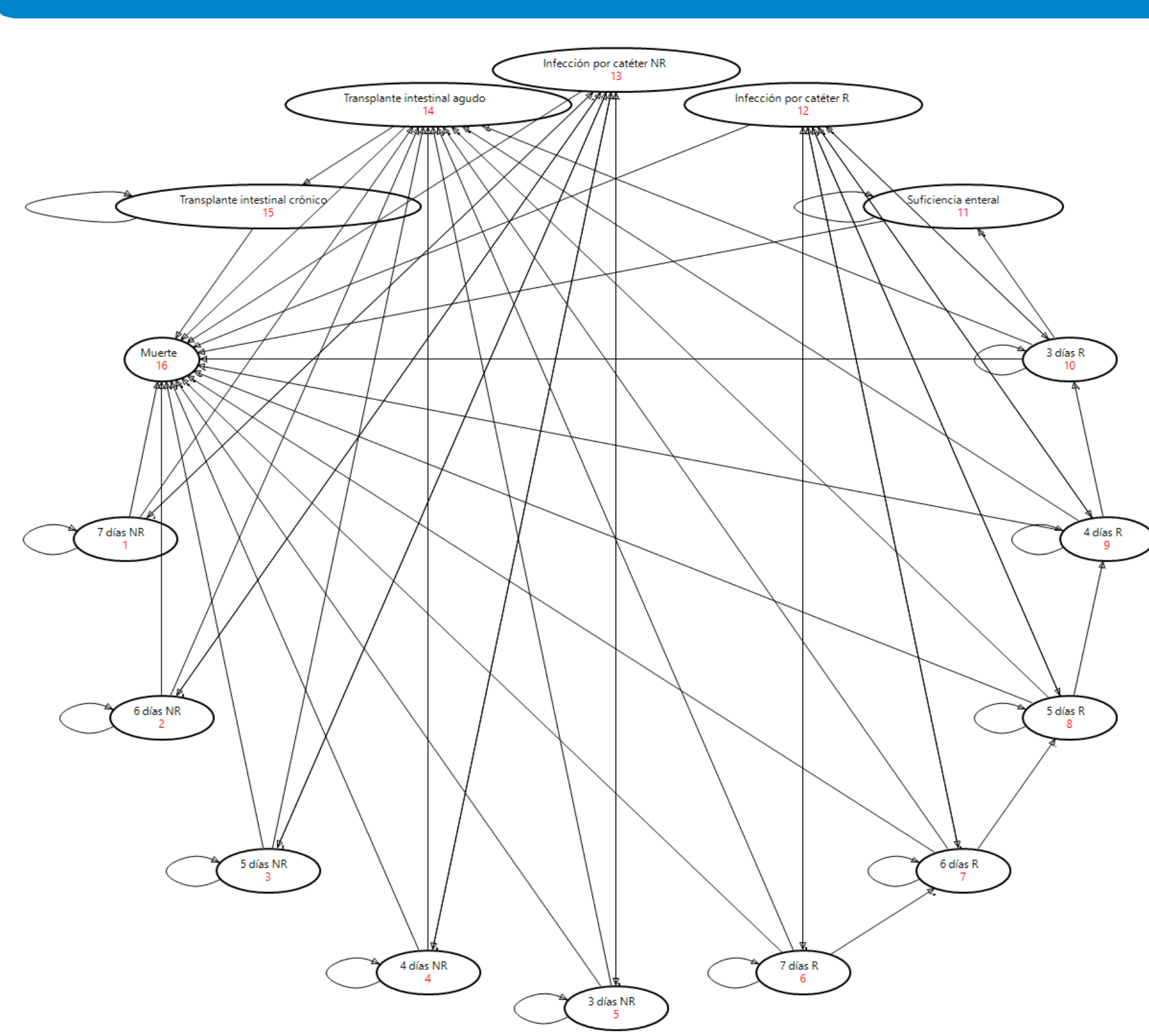
| Adult Model                               |       | Pediatric Model |        |
|---|-------|-----------------|--------|
| Base case                                 | Range | Base case       | Range  |
| Patient initial distribution              |       |                 |        |
| 7 days PN / week                          | 0.3   | 0.375           | NA     |
| 6 days PN / week                          | 0.1   | 0.375           | NA     |
| 5 days PN / week                          | 0.1   | 0.1             | NA     |
| 4 days PN / week                          | 0.4   | 0.1             | NA     |
| 3 days PN / week                          | 0.1   | 0.05            | NA     |
| 6-month significant improvement* rate     |       |                 |        |
| SoC                                       | 0.26  | 0.15 - 0.40     | 0.11   |
| TED                                       | 0.91  | 0.76 - 0.98     | 0.82   |
| Catheter-related sepsis rate, per month** |       |                 |        |
| 7 days PN / week                          | 0.072 | By equation     | 0.145  |
| 6 days PN / week                          | 0.060 | By equation     | 0.120  |
| 5 days PN / week                          | 0.050 | By equation     | 0.099  |
| 4 days PN / week                          | 0.041 | By equation     | 0.082  |
| 3 days PN / week                          | 0.034 | By equation     | 0.068  |
| 0 days PN / week                          | 0     | By equation     | 0      |
| Case fatality, catheter-related sepsis    | 0.017 | 0.006 - 0.039   | 0.014  |
| Catheter thrombosis rate, per month       | 0.005 | 0.002 - 0.008   | 0.0063 |
| Significant IFALD rate, per month         | 0.003 | 0.002 - 0.004   | 0.0006 |
| Transplant mortality, per month           | 0.009 | 0.007 - 0.011   | 0.007  |
| Utilities                                 |       |                 |        |
| 0 days PN / week                          | 0.74  | 0.56 - 0.93     | Idem   |
| 3 days PN / week                          | 0.61  | 0.46 - 0.76     | Idem   |
| 4 days PN / week                          | 0.57  | 0.43 - 0.71     | Idem   |
| 5 days PN / week                          | 0.52  | 0.39 - 0.65     | Idem   |
| 6 days PN / week                          | 0.48  | 0.36 - 0.60     | Idem   |
| 7 days PN / week                          | 0.39  | 0.29 - 0.49     | Idem   |
| Transplantation (month 1)                 | 0.39  | 0.29 - 0.49     | Idem   |
| Transplantation (later)                   | 0.74  | 0.56 - 0.93     | Idem   |

SoC, standard of care; TED, teduglutide; PN, parenteral nutrition; IFALD, intestinal failure-associated liver disease.

\* Defined as a reduction of ≥20% of daily PN volume from baseline.

\*\* Estimated by equation (Poisson regression of association between days PN/week and risk of catheter-related sepsis).

Figure 1. Transition States Diagram



R: Responder; NR: Non-responder.  
Transition states 1-5: 7-3 days NR; 6-10: 7-3 days R; 11: PN autonomy; 12: catheter-related sepsis in R; 13: catheter-related sepsis in NR; 14-15: acute and chronic intestinal transplant; 16: death.

## Results

### Adult Model

- In adults, our model predicted that teduglutide reduced mortality (-46.9%), sepsis (-81.5%), intestinal transplant (-84.5%) and increased PN weaning (+251%) (**Table 2**).
- Incremental effectiveness of teduglutide was 4.39 QALY (1.52 times vs. SoC) at 574,773 USD (3.96 times vs. SoC). ICER was 130,891 USD/QALY (**Table 3**). **Figure 2** shows the cost-effectiveness relationship between teduglutide and SoC.

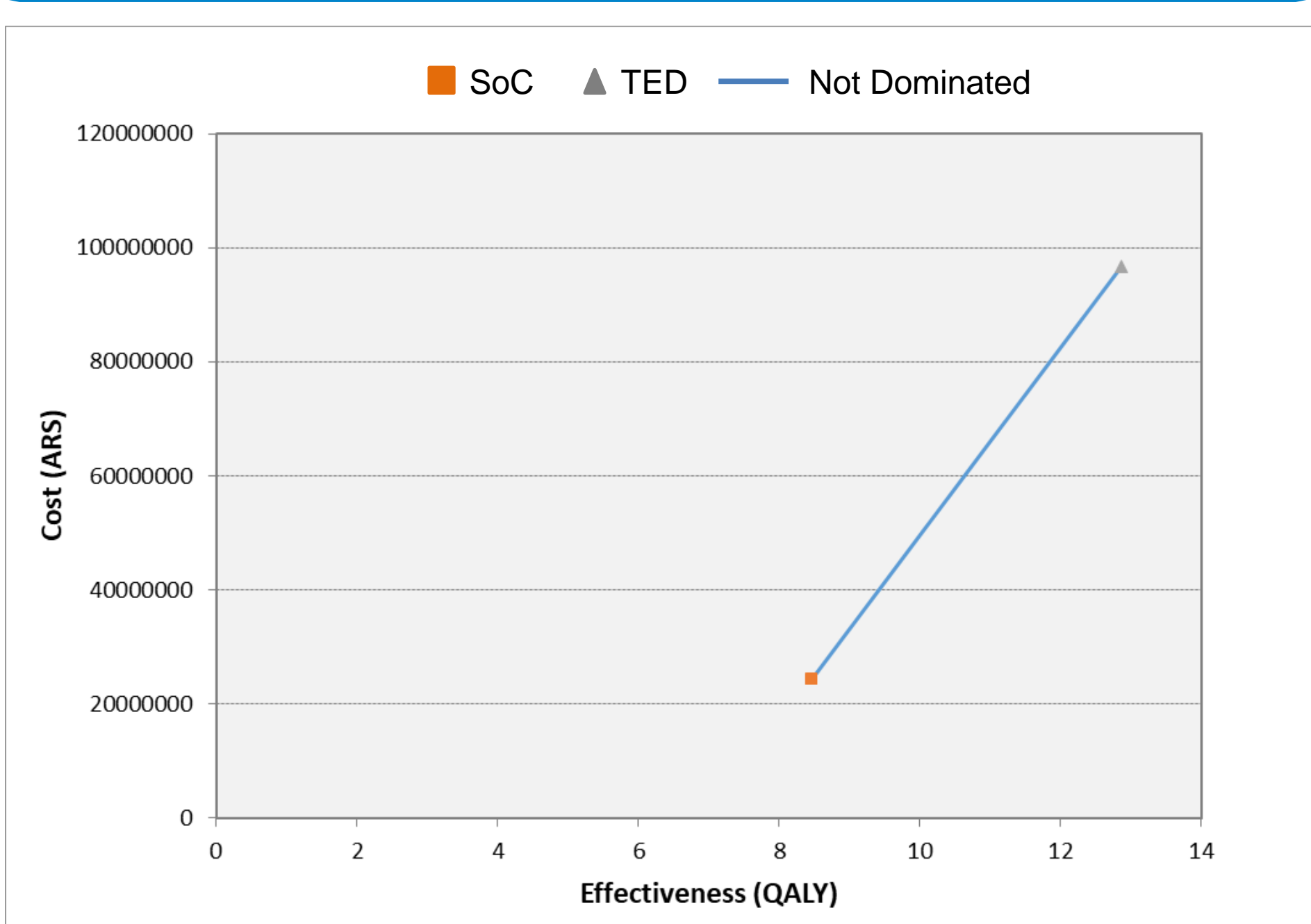
Table 2. Clinical Results in Adults

| Month | PN Weaning (%) | Catheter Sepsis (%) | Transplant (%) | Death (%) |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|
| SoC   |                |                     |                |           |
| 6     | 21.6           | 7.3                 | 5.0            | 1.1       |
| 12    | 23.6           | 6.5                 | 9.3            | 2.3       |
| 24    | 24.3           | 5.9                 | 11.0           | 5.2       |
| 60    | 23.9           | 4.9                 | 13.0           | 13.9      |
| 120   | 23.0           | 4.1                 | 8.3            | 27.2      |
| 240   | 19.2           | 2.7                 | 3.3            | 50.2      |
| TED   |                |                     |                |           |
| 6     | 75.6           | 2.6                 | 0.8            | 0.8       |
| 12    | 82.6           | 1.4                 | 1.3            | 1.2       |
| 24    | 85.2           | 1.1                 | 1.5            | 2.1       |
| 60    | 83.9           | 0.9                 | 1.8            | 4.9       |
| 120   | 80.6           | 0.8                 | 1.2            | 10.2      |
| 240   | 67.4           | 0.5                 | 0.5            | 26.8      |

Table 3. Cost-Effectiveness Results in Adults

| Strategies | Cost (USD) | Incremental Cost (USD) | Effectiveness (QALY) | Incremental Effectiveness | ICER (USD/QALY) |
|------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| SoC        | 193,754    |                        | 8.46                 |                           |                 |
| TED        | 768,527    | 574,773                | 12.85                | 4.39                      | 130,891         |

Figure 2. Cost-Effectiveness Plane in Adults



### Pediatric Model

- In children, our model predicted that teduglutide reduced mortality (-67.7%), sepsis (-61.4%), intestinal transplant (-78.8%) and increased PN weaning (+637.5%) (**Table 4**).
- Incremental effectiveness was 0.67 QALY (1.27 times vs. SoC) at 418,597 USD (2.98 times vs. SoC). ICER was 624,793 USD/QALY (**Table 5**). **Figure 3** shows the cost-effectiveness relationship between teduglutide and SoC.

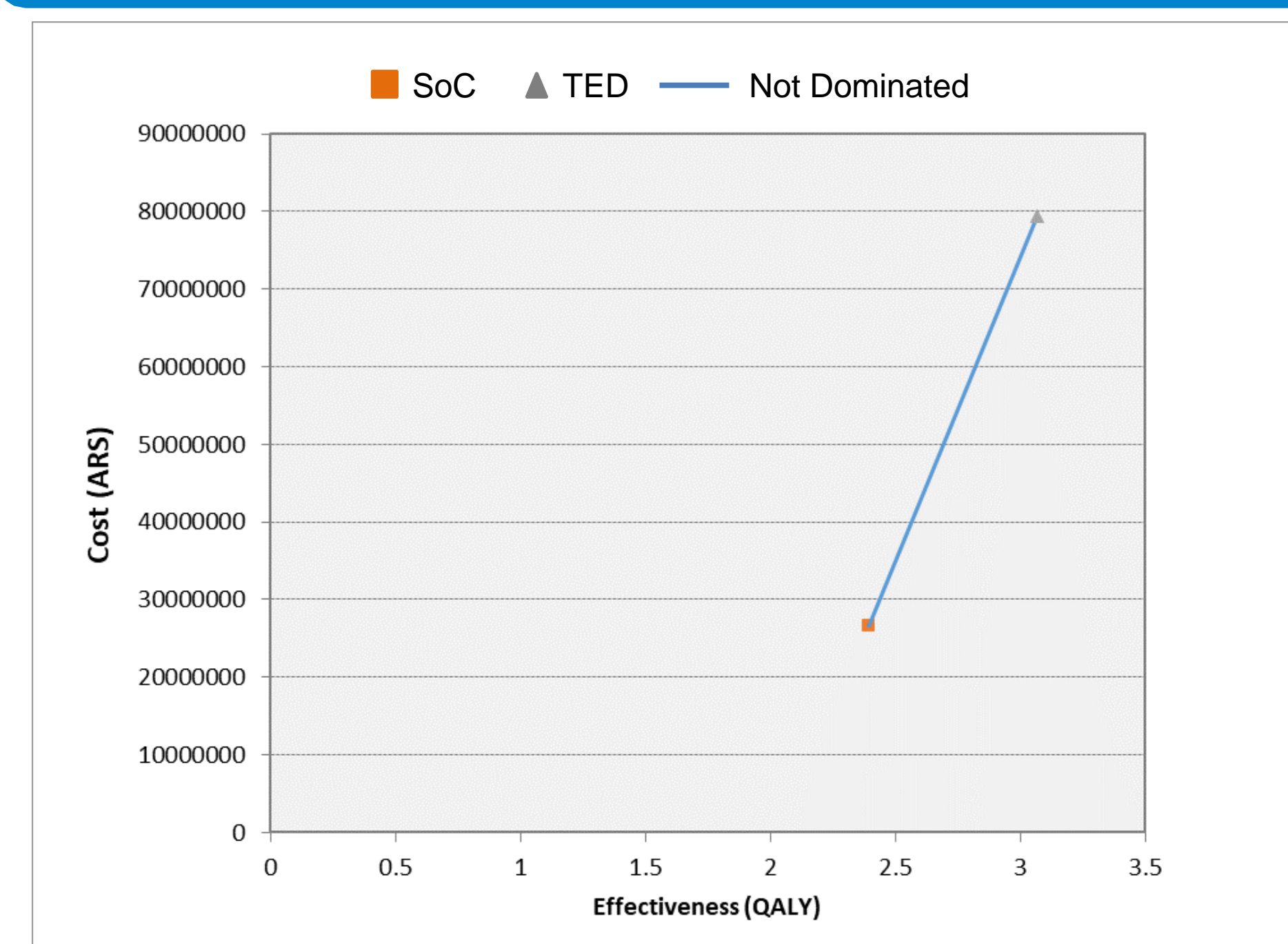
Table 4. Clinical Results in Children

| Month | PN Weaning (%) | Catheter Sepsis (%) | Transplant (%) | Death (%) |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|
| SoC   |                |                     |                |           |
| 6     | 7.8            | 12.6                | 6.5            | 1.1       |
| 12    | 9.0            | 11.4                | 12.0           | 2.5       |
| 24    | 9.6            | 9.5                 | 20.9           | 5.7       |
| 60    | 9.6            | 5.7                 | 35.8           | 16.7      |
| TED   |                |                     |                |           |
| 6     | 57.6           | 5.9                 | 1.5            | 0.9       |
| 12    | 66.5           | 4.0                 | 2.4            | 1.4       |
| 24    | 70.8           | 3.1                 | 4.5            | 2.3       |
| 60    | 70.8           | 2.2                 | 7.6            | 5.4       |

Table 5. Cost-Effectiveness Results in Children

| Strategies | Cost (USD) | Incremental Cost (USD) | Effectiveness (QALY) | Incremental Effectiveness | ICER (USD/QALY) |
|------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| SoC        | 211,896    |                        | 2.4                  |                           |                 |
| TED        | 630,492    | 418,597                | 3.07                 | 0.67                      | 624,793         |

Figure 3. Cost-Effectiveness Plane in Children



## Limitations

- Limited published data on real-world safety and efficacy before June 2022.
- Indirect costs associated with SBS were not included in this model.
- The pediatric vial is not available in Argentina; thus, the pediatric model assumed utilization of the adult vial.
- A highly fragmented healthcare system and financial and economic volatility hampered accurate costs and discount estimations; thus, reference prices were considered.

## Conclusions and Discussion

- SBS poses a challenge for health technology assessment due to limited published data, as well as the impact SBS etiology and intestinal anatomy, have on such evaluations.
- This model evaluated the clinical benefit of teduglutide in adult and pediatric patients with SBS based on available evidence considering clinical endpoints beyond those related to PN requirements.
- In this model, teduglutide is an effective intervention with significant benefits on relevant clinical endpoints (PN weaning, mortality, catheter-related sepsis and intestinal transplant). However, at the current price, teduglutide is beyond the cost-effectiveness threshold considered in Argentina. Of note, this model only considered teduglutide dosing as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Remarkably, real-world evidence in Argentina showed sustained clinical benefits in selected patients after PN weaning with teduglutide every other day dosing (12). This topic is addressed in local expert SBS clinical recommendations (16).
- The implementation of value-based contracting methodologies and multidisciplinary approaches aimed at improving treatment outcomes may enhance patient access in Argentina considering the high-cost burden to treat this debilitating disease.

## References

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Boissonnet C and Giorgi M have nothing to declare. Brion L, Ussher F, Ungar L, Covini C and Rodger J are employees of Takeda Argentina S.A.  
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