

Methodological acceptability of the economic analyses assessed by the HAS in 2023

Seguier C¹, Sambuc C¹, Tehard B¹, Chevalier J¹, Midy F¹, Roze S¹

¹VYOO AGENCY, 10 rue Yvonne, 69100 Villeurbanne/34 rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, 75008 Paris

Context – Objective – Methods

In France, the CEESP (Economic & Public Health Assessment Commission) appraises the health technology assessment submitted by the manufacturers when requested concomitantly with a reimbursement demand. The CEESP establishes the methodological acceptability of the health economic assessment through methodological reservations qualified as minor, important or major.

Since 2021, the CEESP has also specified the level of uncertainty surrounding the results, which could be due to the difficulty of estimating key parameters, the lack of credibility of hypotheses or the interpretability of the results.

A major reservation or uncertainty invalidates the dossier and the economic value it defends.

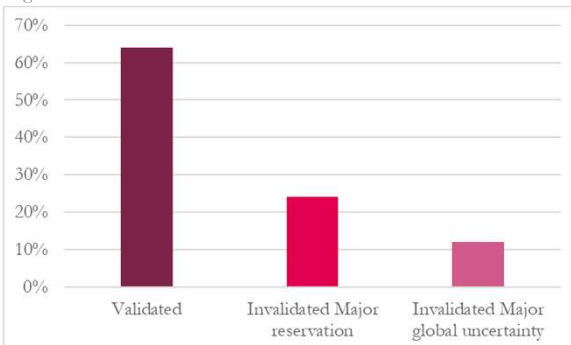
Using the Vyoo Agency database, which collects all the opinions published by the HAS, the aim is to analyse the main reasons retained by the CEESP for invalidating the economic information in health economic assessments published in 2023.

All available health economic evaluations reviewed by CEESP between 1 January and 31 December 2023 were included.

Results

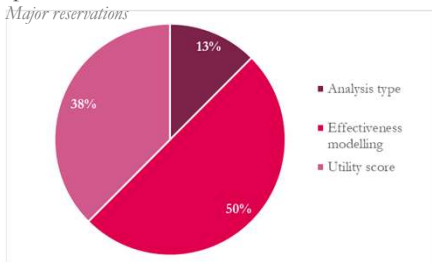
In 2023, 25 appraisals were disclosed, 9 of which were invalidated. Eight major methodological reservations were stated, invalidating 6 economic evaluations. Three economic evaluations were invalidated due to major uncertainty.

Figure 1. CEESP conclusions



Major uncertainty were mainly supported by the evolving context (3 opinions, 2 of which on COVID-19 treatments) or statistical variability of the parameters.

Figure 2. Major reservations



The major reservations relate to relative effectiveness modelling (N=4), utility estimation (N=3) and type of analysis (N=1).

Regarding effectiveness, all reservations concern the indirect comparisons. Two reservations relate to the robustness of the network meta-analysis and the others to the acceptability of the method used. Regarding utility estimation, 2 reservations relate to the use of a vignette study (methodology excluded in the HAS guidelines).

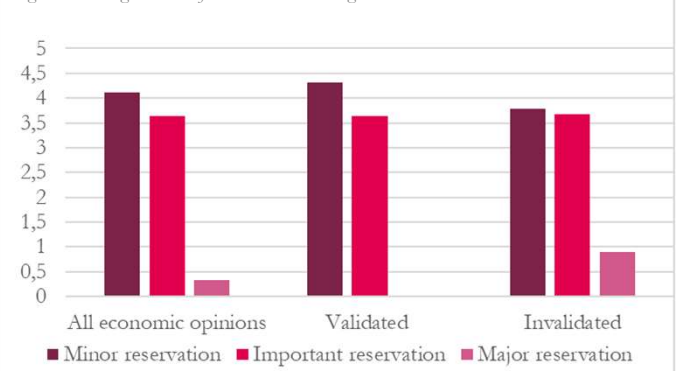
Conclusion

In 2023, 64% of economic evaluations were likely to provide economic information useful in the decision-making process in France, compared with less than 50% in 2022. Increasing the number of validated assessments is a key issue to ensure economic information can be fully used in pricing negotiations.

References

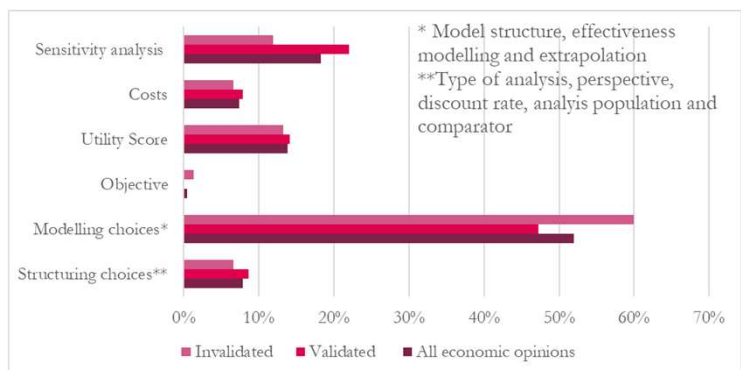
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Figure 3. Average number of reservations according to CEESP conclusion



The number of reservations, whatever the category, is higher for invalidated economic evaluations. In all, invalidated dossiers account for around 60% of reservations versus 40% for validated dossiers.

Figure 4. Distribution of reserves for all categories



The main categories of reservations are modelling choices, utility score estimation and uncertainty exploration. Regardless of the validity of the RDCR, modelling choices occupy a key position in methodological reservations. For validated opinions, the exploration of uncertainty seems more important than for invalidated opinions.