Health technology assessment of medical devices in Spain from 2012 to 2024

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OBJECTIVES

- To explore how the health technology assessment (HTA) of medical devices has evolved in Spain since the creation of the Spanish Network for Health Technology Assessment of the National Health System (RedETS) in 2012.
- To have an overview of the Spanish context in terms of medical devices assessment considering the upcoming implementation of the European Joint Clinical Assessment (JCA).

METHODS

 RedETS encompasses eight Spanish public HTA bodies that cooperate using common methodologies. The HTA bodies involved are the following:

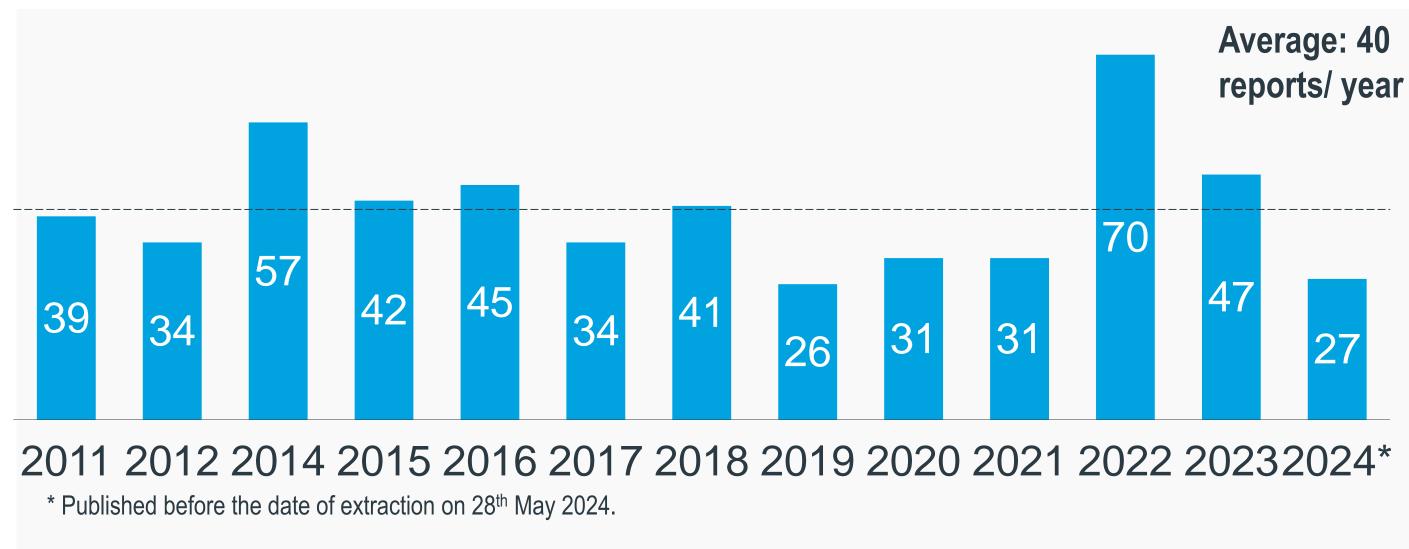


- RedETS reports published from 2012 to 2024 were extracted from its website until 28th May 2024 [1]. Extracted data included the report title, the agency and authors behind the report, and the year of publication.
- HTA reports were then classified considering the target therapeutic area, disease, population, and technology/intervention, based on the title of the reports.

RESULTS

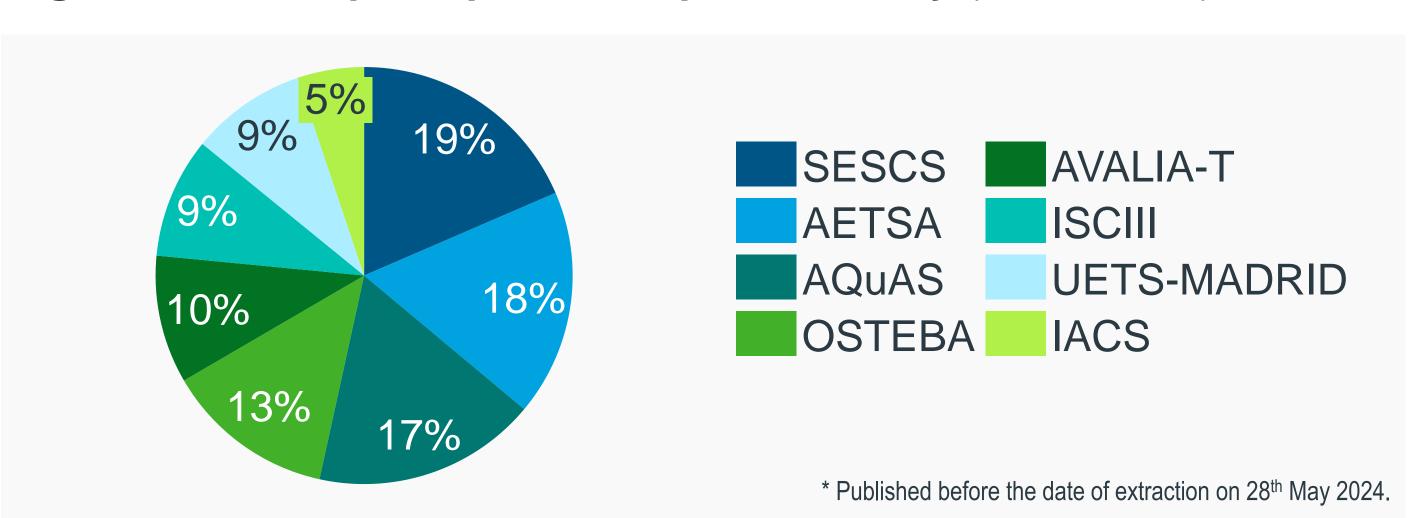
 RedETS has published 524 reports since its creation (2012-2024), averaging 40 reports per year (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1 RedETS reports published per year (2012-2024*)



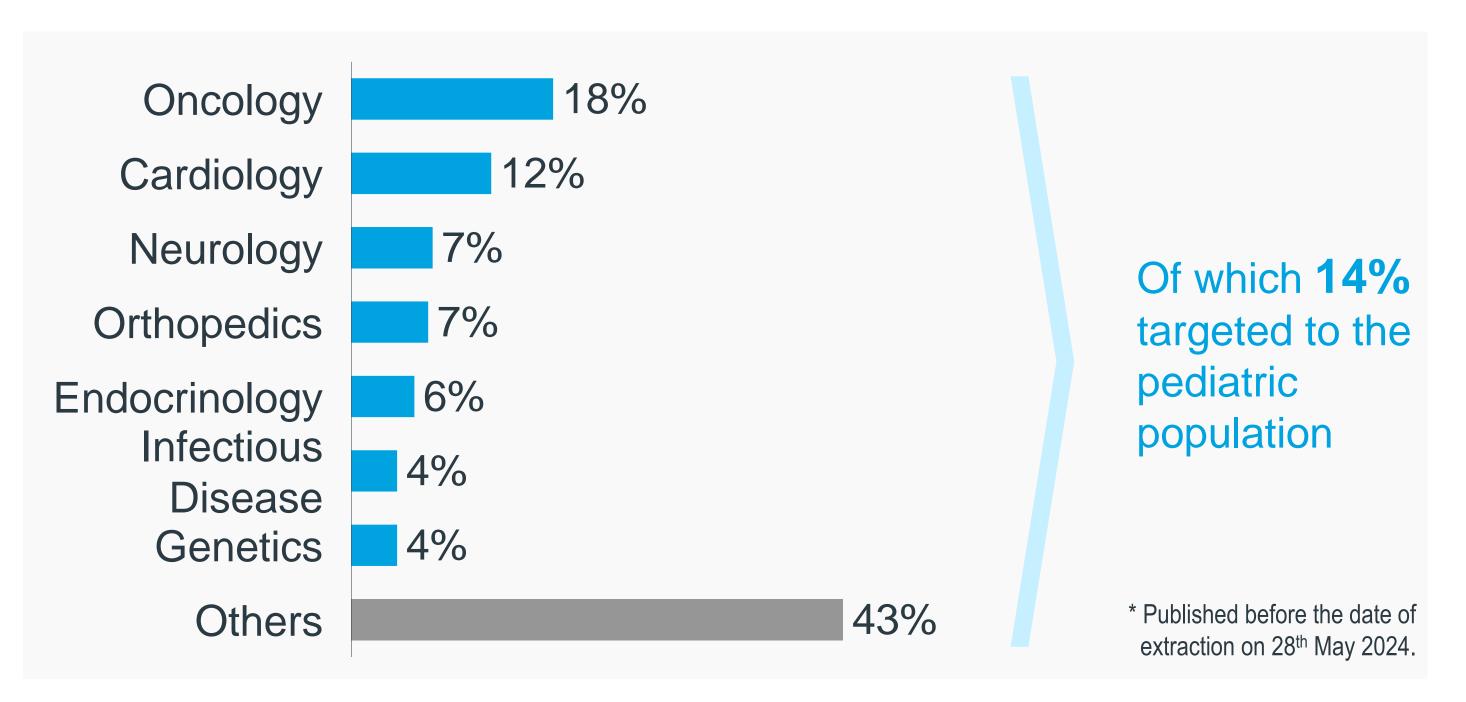
• The HTA bodies' contributions were the following **(Fig. 2)**: SESCS (19%), AETSA (18%), AQuAS (17%), OSTEBA (13%), AVALIA-T (10%), ISCIII (9%), UETS-MADRID (9%), and IACS (5%).

Fig. 2 RedETS reports published per HTA body (2012-2024*)



• One in every five HTA reports was in oncology (18%), followed by cardiology (12%). Around one in seven covered the pediatric population (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3 RedETS reports published per therapeutic area (2012-2024*)



 Analyses of the HTA reports per therapeutic area and agency suggest some specialization patterns (Table 1). Illustratively, one agency (SESCS) conducted ~ 45% of the endocrinology reports published by RedETS.

Table 1. RedETS reports per therapeutic area/ agency (2012-2024*,**)

Therapeutic area	AETSA	AQuAS	AVALIA-T	IACS	ISCIII	OSTEBA	SESCS	UETS-M
Oncology	23%	16%	11%	2%	11%	10%	13%	14%
Cardiology	14%	5%	19%	3%	9%	22%	11%	17%
Neurology	24%	11%	3%	14%	11%	11%	22%	5%
Orthopedics	31%	26%	6%	3%	3%	14%	11%	6%
Endocrinology	3%	24%	7%	7%	10%	3%	45%	0%
Genetics	19%	5%	38%	5%	0%	0%	33%	0%
Infectious Dis.	19%	10%	14%	5%	29%	5%	14%	5%
Ophthalmology	12%	24%	6%	29%	6%	12%	12%	0%
Psychiatry	13%	13%	7%	7%	0%	20%	33%	7%
Pulmonology	13%	27%	0%	0%	7%	33%	20%	0%
Obstetrics & Gyn.	36%	7%	21%	7%	0%	14%	14%	0%
Surgery	8%	54%	0%	0%	8%	8%	8%	15%
Alternative medicine	0%	0%	8%	0%	17%	8%	42%	25%
Gastroenterology	0%	17%	8%	0%	8%	25%	17%	25%
Nephrology	30%	10%	0%	10%	20%	10%	20%	0%
Urology	10%	20%	10%	20%	10%	20%	0%	10%

- A total of 40 reports focused on screening, the majority for neonatal or
- pediatric population (58%).

 A diverse range of technologies/modical interventions were assessed.
- A diverse range of technologies/medical interventions were assessed, from complementary and alternative medicine techniques to digital and artificial intelligence-based medical devices.

CONCLUSION

The creation of RedETS marked a new era for HTA in Spain, bringing together different regions into a national network. As we prepare to enter a new era, with the development of European joint clinical assessments on drugs, in vitro diagnostics, and high-risk medical devices, it is important to understand how HTA has evolved so far in Spain and monitor the change over the upcoming years.

REFERENCES:

^{1.} Red Española de Agencias de Evaluación de Tecnologías Sanitarias y Prestaciones del Sistema Nacional de Salud Website, List of Health Technology Assessment Reports. URL: https://redets.sanidad.gob.es/productos/buscarProductos.do?metodo=buscaTipos&tipold=1.