

ISPOR Lebanon Chapter

Lebanese Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research

“HTA, the assessment of value”

(Hilton Beirut Metropolitan- Beirut/ February 23-24, 2018)

Learning objectives:

The meeting’s main objectives were to outline the fundamentals of what a ‘good’ HTA process looks like, identify principles applicable to structuring and governing HTA organizations and understand key aspects of HTA: clinical evidence, economic evaluation, budget impact, and uncertainty. In addition, the impact of HTA and barriers to impact were explained. Different and evolving approaches to implement HTA in Lower Income Countries were discussed.

Organizing Committee:

Board members of ISPOR Lebanon Chapter (LSPOR):

Ghassan Hamadeh, MD, CPE	President
Mirna Metni, Pharm.D.	President Elect
Soumana Chamoun Nasser, Pharm.D.	Secretary & Activity Director
Marie Therese Estephan Sawaya, MD	Treasurer
Maher Hassoun, M.S.	Director of Communications
Rita Karam, Pharm.D, PhD.	Board Member
Myriam Watfa, Pharm.D.	Executive staff

International speakers:

Pr. Finn Boerlum Kristensen	Chairman of the Executive Committee & Director of the Coordinating Secretariat
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	of EUnetHTA – Denmark
Pr. Thomas Strong	Technical Analyst & Technology Appraisals – NICE
Dr. Mouna Jameleddine	Head, Health Technology Assessment Department - National Instance for Assessment & Accreditation in Healthcare - INASanté –Tunisia

Work accomplished:

The 2-days annual event (*annex 1*) was organized by Dr. Rita Karam, and Mirna Metni, it welcomed 3 international speakers mentioned above and was attended by 138 participants (*annex 2*).

Day one:

After a welcome note and a presentation of the meeting’s objectives conducted by Dr. Karam and Dr. Metni respectively, Prof. Kristensen went through the importance and key principles of HTA. He defined it, presented the target groups, policy questions, orientations, HTA oriented technologies, problems, projects, strength of evidence base, stakeholders, policy questions, case studies and scenarios.

In his second presentation, Prof. Kristensen exposed current and future issues in HTA. He compared efficacy vs. effectiveness, explained HTA along health technology life cycle, paths of decision-making based on HTA in Europe, study designs and patient registries. Finally, Prof. Kristensen talked about the processes towards establishing HTA in developing countries. He went over the steps to achieve legislative support in the establishment, capacity building prospects, and models of economic evaluation.

The last but not least presentation was about HTA concepts in practice and was communicated by Prof. Strong. He first defined the NICE organization, its guidance portfolio, how are technologies selected, presented a case study, the PICO (Population Intervention Comparison Outcome) table, groups involved in appraisal of technologies, companies’ submission, appraising evidence, clinical effectiveness, key clinical questions, the use of QALY, optimized recommendations, patient access scheme, new cancer drug funds, appraisal tracks, and commercial arrangements of the future.

Each session was followed by questions from participants.

Day two:

Dr. Metni gave an overview about what was discussed on day one (definition, formal steps, key principles, methods, process for conduction and use of HTA) and presented the day two objectives.

Dr. Jamaledine talked about the lessons to learn from countries with established HTA. After giving the audience a slight overview of Tunisia’s demography, she enumerated the sources of funding of healthcare services, challenges encountered, INEAS and INATHA organization. She explained how HTA started, the country’s stakeholders, partnerships, typical structures of HTA report, regulations, strategies, methodological quality appraisal, hurdles and barriers.

Later that day, Prof. Kristensen talked about the European experience of EUnetHTA. He stated the partners in EUnetHTA, components of HTA core model, practical tools for technology development, synergies between regulatory and HTA bodies, and the various cooperation in Europe.

The event ended with a panel discussion composed of: Dr. Sizar Akoum (HTA focal point at the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health), Dr. Clara Abi Fadel (pharmacist at the Lebanese General Security), Dr. Nizar Saab (controller Pharmacist at the Lebanese National Social Security Funds), Dr. Rana Jabbouri (pharmacist at the Lebanese CSC), Dr. Jameledine, Prof. Kristensen, Pr. Strong and moderated by Dr. Sawaya. The discussion turned around the current issues encountered in the application of HTA in Lebanon, transferability of data issue, the possible role of LSPOR in implementing HTA and next steps. Recommendations were raised:

- Start with a national strategy for HTA alongside with an HTA committee.
- Focus on capacity building.
- Close follow up of reference countries after they provide assistance and support
- Involvement of physicians in HTA committee.

Conclusion:

The meeting was successful. The participation level was high and numerous questions were asked. By the end of the second day, evaluation forms were filled by the participants.

Acknowledgments:

The LSPOR Committee would like to thank Pr. Kristensen, Pr. Strong, Dr. Jameledine, national stakeholders, Science Pro and the participants.

Annex 1: Agenda

Friday 23 February	Topic	Speakers
08:15-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:15	Opening Session	Dr. Rita Karam
09:15-09:30	Overview of Meeting Objectives	Dr. Mirna Matni
SESSION 1	HTA Concepts, Challenges and Ways of Implementation	Moderated by Dr. Soumana Nasser
09:30-10:30	Health Technology Assessment: Importance, Process and Key principles	Pr. Finn Boerlum Kristensen Chairman of the Executive Committee & Director of the Coordinating Secretariat of EUnetHTA - Denmark
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:00	Current and Future Issues in HTA	Pr. Finn Boerlum Kristensen
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	Implementing HTA in Developing Countries	Pr. Finn Boerlum Kristensen
14:30-14:45	Break	
SESSION 2	Applied HTA	Moderated by Dr. Mirna Matni
14:45-16:00	HTA Concepts in Practice	Pr. Thomas Strong Technical Analyst & Technology Appraisals – NICE

Saturday 24 February	Topic	Speakers
08:15-09:00	Registration	
09:00-9:15	Review of Day 1 Course, Q&A and Overview of Day 2 Course and Objectives	Dr. Mirna Matni
SESSION 3	Sharing Experience	Moderated by Dr. Rita Karam
09:15-10:15	Lessons to Learn from Countries with Established HTA (Tunisia Experience)	Dr. Mouna Jameleddine Head, Health Technology Assessment Department - National Instance for Assessment & Accreditation in Healthcare - INASanté –Tunisia
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:30	EUnetHTA: The European Experience	Pr. Finn Boerlum Kristensen
SESSION 4	Panel Discussion	Moderated by Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sawaya
11:30-12:30	Local Considerations for HTA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflections on Current and Future Use of HTA in Lebanon - What Can Be Done with ISPOR - Future Recommendations 	National Stakeholders