Overview of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) from Asia Pacific Perspective

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Outline of the Presentation

- Healthcare spending and research and development (R&D) costs in Asia
- Current health technology assessment (HTA) (and agencies) in Asia and key features
- Suggestions for enhancing HTA in Japan
Health Expenditure in Asia as % of GDP (2010)†,‡

Given the size of populations in most Asian countries, the current percentage of health expenditure as % of GDP restricts governmental budgets for healthcare programs.

† http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare_in_Taiwan
‡ http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.PUBL/countries
These values are for all R&D including pharmaceuticals. The fact that R&D expenditure is a high percentage of Japan’s GDP reflects the importance this country places on R&D.
Enormous Efforts in Global Drug R&D will Bring More New/Innovative Drugs into Asia†

This global R&D development in innovative medicines will bring challenges to countries, including those in Asia, in regulatory authorizations and appreciation of value for pricing and reimbursement (P&R)

† http://www.phrma.org/research/publications
Global Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is Moving into Emerging Markets/Asia Pacific

Recently Established HTA
- South Korea (ref – Australia)
- Taiwan (ref – Canada/US)
- Brazil (ref – Canada/UK)

HTA Under Review
- Singapore (ref – UK/Aus)
- Hong Kong (ref – UK/Aus)
- Thailand (ref – UK/Aus)
- China (ref ?)
- Turkey (ref – UK)

In Discussion
- India
- Japan
- Russia
# Various Types of HTA Agencies in Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Various university centers</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>MaHTAS (Health Technology Assessment Section) and HTAU</td>
<td>MoH/Government</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Health Technology Assessment Unit)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Research &amp; Technology Assessment Department</td>
<td>MoH/Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>HIRA (Health Insurance Review &amp; Assessment Agency)/NECA</td>
<td>MoHW/Government</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaboration Agency)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>HTA Division- Center for Drug Evaluations</td>
<td>DoH/Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>HiTAP (Health Intervention &amp; Technology Assessment Program)</td>
<td>MoPH/Government</td>
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[http://www.ispor.org/HTADirectory/Index.aspx](http://www.ispor.org/HTADirectory/Index.aspx)
### Most of the Asian HTA Programs are Research Oriented & Drug Focused

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MaHTAS/Malaysia</td>
<td>(1) To ensure appropriate use of health care technology by influencing decision-makers through collection, analysis, dissemination of information on safety, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and health impact of technologies. (2) To provide evidence for informed decision making to policymakers, health care providers and consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;TAD/Singapore</td>
<td>To evaluate the benefits, risks and clinical effectiveness of health technologies to support policy-making in the management and planning of health services in Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTA/CDE/Taiwan</td>
<td>To enhance the efficiency and quality of drug evaluation, thus promote public health and welfare including timely access to innovative medicines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HiTAP/Thailand</td>
<td>To establish a national standard and body of knowledge for health technology assessment in Thailand that not only achieves an international standard but also takes into account the resources and infrastructure constraints in the Thai setting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A Funneling Process for Decision Making in Asia – Potential Impacts from HTA?

- Number of medicines approved by a country’s regulatory agency
- Number of medicines considered for listing by national formulary
- Number of medicines with prices that are eventually accepted

**PROs:** refrain from a fixed budget to focus on most needed

**CONs:** longer time lag and fewer number of new medicines under coverage
Key Features of HTA in Asia

- Most of the programs are run by government
- South Korea and Taiwan have nationally legislated built-in healthcare insurance including HTA like assessments. In Thailand, the Medical Device Act requires assessments for device purchases that are above certain costs
- Some local pharmacoeconomic guidelines are written but require better implementation
- Focus on pharmaceuticals listing in national formulary; medical device/procedures are catching up
- Insufficient quality of local data and HTA methodologies
- Need more qualified staff/researchers
Suggestions for Enhancing HTA in Japan

- Consider a legal framework for HTA processes (separate to regulatory approval purposes) to ensure a clear understanding of the objectives and how HTA fits within the health system based on local policy, culture, values, and medical practice for a proper and transparent HTA process in Japan.

- Leverage current healthcare infrastructure in Japan with a focus on improving efficiency.

- Have an early dialogue and full engagement with all stakeholders including industry and patient groups.

- Balance between healthcare budget and unmet medical needs for the entire population focusing on long term benefits.

- Generate a comprehensive plan for development of methodology, data, and qualified staff/researchers suitable for Japan.
Thank you

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