

Embracing uncertainty in health technology assessment

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Embracing Uncertainty in Health Technology Assessment

Xavier Pouwels

1. By only considering the outcomes of health economic models and value of information analysis, important non-quantified uncertainties affecting health policy decisions may be ignored (this thesis)
2. All relevant stakeholders should be involved in the process of identifying uncertainty to ensure important uncertainties are addressed in coverage with evidence collection schemes (this thesis)
3. Ignoring survival model selection uncertainty in health economic models leads to a biased estimation of the (uncertainty related to the) incremental net monetary benefit (this thesis)
4. Flexible reimbursement schemes are required to manage the risk associated with reimbursing expensive innovations (this thesis)
5. Failure to acknowledge what is not known can artificially limit the policy options and open the door to undesired surprises (Saltelli et al, 2020)
6. Meten is niet zeker weten
7. In health economic modelling, agreeing on the assumptions deserves as much work as building the model
8. Systematically identifying, assessing, and reporting uncertainty by using PERSUADE, TRUST, and model averaging will increase decision makers' awareness about uncertainty and lead to better-informed health policy decisions
9. "You can never know everything," Lan said quietly, "part of what you know is always wrong. Perhaps even the most important part. A portion of courage lies in going on anyway" (Robert Jordan, *Winter's Heart*, book 9 of the *The wheel of time* series, 2000)