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INTRODUCTION:

The objective was to identify the conceptual and methodological issues surrounding integration of ethics in Health Technology Assessment (HTA). We conducted a systematic review examining: (i) social needs, (ii) methodological and procedural barriers, (iii) concepts or processes of ethics assessment used and (iv) results of experimentations for integrating ethics in HTA.

METHODS:

Search criteria included 'ethic', 'technology assessment' and 'HTA'. The literature search was done up to 21 November 2016 in Medline/Ovid, SCOPUS, CINAHL, PsycINFO and international HTA Database. Screening of citations, screening of full-text and data extraction were performed by two subgroups of two independent reviewers. The first group was constituted of HTA experts, and the second of ethics and philosophy experts. Data extracted from articles were regrouped in categories for each objective.

RESULTS:

A list of 2,420 citations was obtained while 1,646 remained after the removal of duplicates. Of these, 132 were fully reviewed, yielding 67 eligible articles for analysis. Eight categories were identified within the social needs. The mostly evoked were 'Informed policy decision making' (n = 16) and 'Informed public/patient decision making' (n = 12). Ten categories of methodological and procedural barriers were identified. The most mentioned were 'Lack of standardized and recognized proceedings for ethical analysis' (n = 28) and 'Lack of shared consensus on the role of ethical theory and ethical expertise' (n = 17). Within the concepts or processes of ethics assessment, thirteen categories were identified. The most mentioned were 'Fairness and Equity' (n = 12), 'Beneficence and Non-maleficence' (n = 10) and, 'Autonomy' (n = 10). Within results of experimentations, five categories were identified. The most mentioned was 'Usefulness of ethics for identifying relevant problems' (n = 3). While few

experimentations were identified, no clear operational method was found in our research.

CONCLUSIONS:

This study confirms the necessity to design an operational method integrating ethics and addressing social needs of HTA. Our results constitute the basis for developing a new theoretical and practical method.

VP140 Methods For Ethical Analysis In The Health Technology Assessment

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INTRODUCTION:

This paper is based on a narrative review to identify and describe approaches to incorporate ethical aspects in Health Technology Assessment (HTA). On the first decade HTA was being established as a new area of research, the social and ethical dimensions seemed to play an essential role. This perspective, centered on the social impact of technology contrasts with the current definition, which focuses on the technical conditions of technology, especially properties and effects. Some authors have discussed the obstacles to include the ethical dimension into this area to a large extent. Those authors were motivated by the perception that there are few sections explicitly dedicated to these dimensions in the evaluation reports.

METHODS:

We searched these scientific databases: Pubmed, Cochrane Library, Centre for Review and Dissemination (CRD), PDQ - Evidence and Virtual Health Library (VHL), and selected studies that presented procedures and methodologies for the inclusion of ethical analysis in HTA.

RESULTS:

A total of 308 articles were retrieved, nine of them were included. The identified methods were classified into four groups according to the parameters and procedures: (i) normative-based evaluation, (ii) case comparison-based evaluation; (iii) predefined questionnaire application-based evaluation and iv) debate and deliberation-based evaluation.

The result showed a great diversity of approaches (1 - 3) for the inclusion of the ethical dimension in the evaluation studies of health technologies, which can even be used together. It is suggested that its use considers the characteristics and needs of each different application contexts.

CONCLUSIONS:

This work presented as methodological base of approaches for the integration of the ethical dimension in the HTA field. Nonetheless, the proposed approaches to the incorporation of philosophical field of ethics into the systematization and objectivity field of the HTA reveal a considerable approach diversity that is applied productively. Since it has been agreed that technology evaluation is contextual, different approaches would help to meet the needs for possible adjustment.

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VP142 Assessing Human Enhancements: Exposing And Elucidating Ethical Issues

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INTRODUCTION:

Human enhancement technologies need assessments, but they differ from other health technologies. Therefore we may need other methods for their assessment, also with regard to addressing its ethical issues. The objective of this paper is to describe the elaboration of a method for exposing and elucidating ethical issues with human cognitive enhancement. The approach is elaborated in order to support and facilitate open and transparent deliberation and decision making with an emerging type of technology with great potential and formative implications for individuals and society.

METHODS:

The literature search identified relevant approaches. Conventional content analysis of the identified papers and methods revealed their suitability for assessing human cognitive enhancement. Four selection criteria were applied and followed by method development. Pilot testing on smart-glasses (1) resulted in amendments.

RESULTS:

A method for exposing and elucidating ethical issues in the assessment of human cognitive enhancement technologies was developed based on three existing approaches in Health Technology Assessment (HTA) (2). The method consists of six steps and a guiding list of forty-three questions. An overview of the approach will be presented.

CONCLUSIONS:

A method for exposing and elucidating ethical issues in the assessment of human cognitive enhancement has been developed. The method paves the way for context