

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

specific ethical assessment and analysis of a new and emerging type of technology.

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VP144 Health Technology Assessment In Hospitals: Determinants Of Performance

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INTRODUCTION:

While “how to perform” a rigorous Health Technology Assessment (HTA) at the institutional level is well established (1), very little has been experienced for empirically approaching an HTA in hospitals: no scientific evidence is available concerning the correct organizational model, to maximise and to improve the functioning, the performance and the effectiveness of the HTA units (2).

This study aims at crystallizing those design options that may positively contribute to the HTA units’ effectiveness (quality) and/or to the efficiency (timely) (3).

METHODS:

After the collection of qualitative data from ninety-five healthcare professionals by means of *ad hoc* questionnaires and interviews, a hierarchical sequential linear regression model was conducted to verify the existence of HTA units determinants. Size, multidisciplinary, trust among members, HTA previous

skills and organizational support were the variables investigated, determining team performance.

RESULTS:

A greater size and the presence of different specialities within the working unit positively influenced effectiveness, even if they spent more time to complete the assessment. Trust, previous HTA skills and organizational support played a key role in team performance. Size and previous HTA skills most explained the variance of team effectiveness ($R^2 = .317$; Adjusted $R^2 = .249$). The five investigated variables presented a higher explanatory nature regarding team efficiency ($R^2 = .246$; Adjusted $R^2 = .165$).

CONCLUSIONS:

The study suggested the creation of multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary HTA units to increase their effectiveness. HTA units should be monitored by the hospital management board, because an excessive increase in multi-disciplinary and size could determine inefficiency. Trust within members and the attendance of HTA training course improve performance. According to these results, the study gave solutions both to the scholars of HTA and to hospitals strategic management boards, paving the way to the determination of a more efficient and effective HTA units composition.

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