

Introducing Patient Perspective in Health Technology Assessment at the Local Level

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Overview

- Background
- Description of the research project
- Systematic review
- Results
- Discussion
- Next steps

Background

Health Technology Assessment
(HTA) at the local level:

- Decentralization of HTA in order to better meet the needs of local decision makers
- Local HTA units (HTAU) in University Hospitals have been created in Quebec
- There are currently 6 HTAU (4 in UHs, 1 at Ste-Justine, 1 at the Institute of Physical Rehabilitation)

Background (cont'd)

Patient/public involvement in HTA:

- Rationale: Patients provide 'experiential' evidence to the HTA process and are the direct beneficiaries of health technologies
- Experiences from other countries (e.g. UK, Denmark), but limited evidence on its impact
- General consensus on the need for more patient-centred HTA, but how?

Background (cont'd)

Patient/public involvement in HTA:

- The implementation of local health HTA units in university hospitals in Quebec provides a unique opportunity to foster an increased participation of patients in decisions regarding health technologies and clinical interventions

Research project

- ***Introducing patient perspective in HTA at the local level***, funded by the CIHR Knowledge-to-Action program
- Goal: To explore how the patient perspective could be introduced into the structures and activities of local HTA units
- Participatory approach: decision makers collaborate to the elaboration of research objectives and the interpretation of results

Research project (cont'd)

Objectives

1. To synthesise international knowledge and experiences on patient and public involvement in HTA activities
2. To explore stakeholders' perceptions regarding strategies for involving patients in various HTA activities
3. To produce a consensual framework that could guide interventions for involving patients in HTA activities at the local level

Research project (cont'd)

- Collaboration between researchers and knowledge users (HTA producers, decision makers, and patient representatives) from two local HTAU and the AETMIS
- Multifaceted project (comprehensive systematic review, interviews, focus groups, deliberative session)

Systematic review

Methods

- Systematic review of the scientific and grey literature published from 1980 to 2009
- Literature search in bibliographic databases, specialized journals, and Internet
- Citation search through ISI Science Citation Index
- Email to INATHA members and the HTAi Interest Sub-group on Patient and Citizen Involvement

Systematic review

Methods (cont'd)

- Inclusion criteria: empirical research reporting involvement of patients, carers, consumers, members of the public or citizens in HTA
- Theoretical and conceptual contributions kept as complementary
- References screened by two independent reviewers
- discrepancies resolved by discussion and a third reviewer if necessary

Systematic review

Analytic framework¹

- Domains of consumer involvement (the policy-making domain, the organizational domain and the commissioning of research)
- Type of public (citizens and representatives of citizens, patients, carers and representatives)
- Level of involvement: (information, consultation and participation)

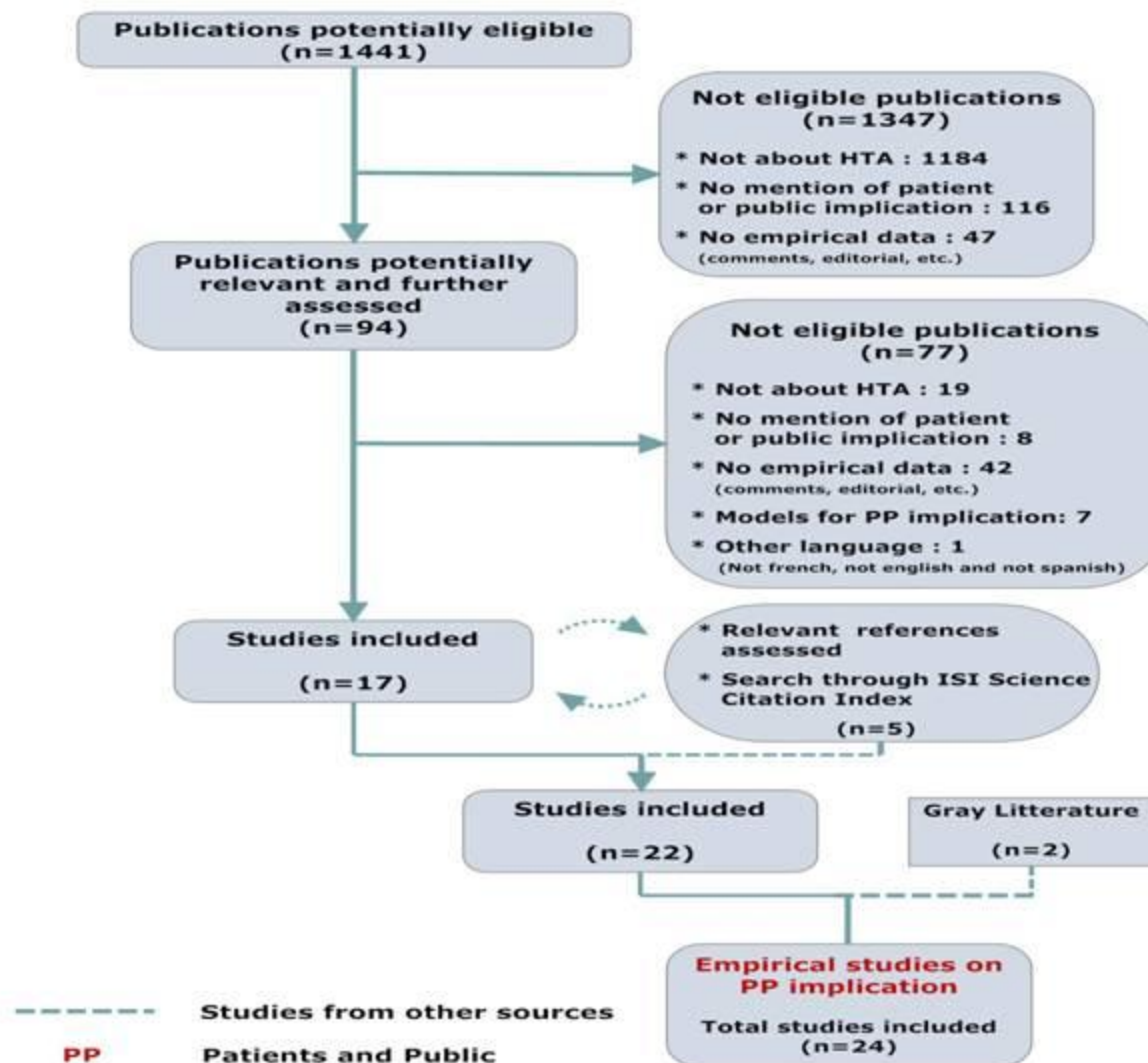
¹Based on Gauvin, FP. (2008). Public Involvement in Health Technology Assessment Agencies: A Comparative Analysis of Canada, Denmark, and the United Kingdom. Doctoral Thesis, McMaster University.

Systematic review

Other dimensions considered:

- Type of health technology
- Objectives and context of involvement activities
- Methods used for capturing users' perspectives
- Factors facilitating or limiting patient participation
- Impacts on clinical interventions, costs and perceptions of other stakeholders

Search flow diagram



Results

- 24 studies included
- 13 from United Kingdom, 3 from the United States, and 3 from the Netherlands
- 1 study from each of these countries: Canada, Denmark, Germany, New-Zealand, and Austria
- 14 studies published since 2005
- Only four studies published before 2000

Results (cont'd)

Purpose of studies:

- Assess patients' preferences or perceptions regarding alternative technologies, or different means of dispensing and organising health services (9 studies)
- Report experiences of public participation in committees, jury, council or workshop (8 studies)

Results (cont'd)

Two main forms of involvement reported:

1. Direct participation of patient or public representatives in the decision-making process regarding health technologies
2. Consultation of patient or public about their perspective, values, etc. to inform decisions (indirect participation)

Results (cont'd)

Types of activities in which patients/public could be involved:

1. Selecting technologies to be assessed (priority setting activities)
2. Performing the assessment of the selected technology (research activities)
3. Activities focusing on communication and implementation of the findings (dissemination activities)

Results (cont'd)

Methods used for capturing patient perspective:

- Qualitative methods (interviews, focus groups, observations) were used in most studies (21/24).
- 4 studies used a quantitative method (questionnaire) for measuring patient preferences

Discussion

- Although patient perspective is valued in the HTA field, few HTA agencies have used structured methods to gather evidence about social and psychological aspects of health technologies
- The most documented experiences of patient/public participation are those initiated by organization such as NICE and NCCHTA in the UK

Discussion

- This systematic reviews shows that experiences of patient involvement at the local level are still very limited
- Given the scope and resources of local HTA units, there is a need to develop strategies of patient involvement that will be adapted to this context

Next steps

- Interviews with stakeholders (HTA producers, hospital managers, healthcare professionals, and patients) are being conducted across Quebec to collect their perceptions regarding actual and ideal patient involvement in HTA at the local level
- Relevant and feasible strategies for considering patient perspective in HTA will be identified through a deliberative session

Next steps

- A subsequent phase of this project will be the implementation of strategies for considering patient perspective in local HTA unit of university hospitals in Quebec
- Thus, this research is an essential first step to ensure the feasibility of introducing the patient perspective in HTA at the local level

Conclusion

- Given the actual state of evidence, promoting patient participation in HTA could improve the quality and safety of healthcare
- This project provides an opportunity to bridge the gap between the producers of HTA and its ultimate end-user: the patient

Questions, Comments?

Thank you!

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