

PP92 Enhancing Patient Engagement In Health Technology Assessment: Identification Of Barriers, Facilitators, And Proposals For Improvement

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Introduction: Patient engagement in the health technology assessment (HTA) field is crucial but faces significant challenges. This study focuses on identifying the barriers and facilitators surrounding the incorporation of patients in HTA while proposing solutions from the perspective of the Patient Interest Group (GIP) within the Spanish Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment and Services of the National Health System (RedETS).

Methods: An ad hoc questionnaire with four open-ended questions about barriers, facilitators, and proposals was developed and distributed among the GIP members through an email survey methodology. The obtained results were discussed in an open in-person meeting, and a thematic analysis of the data was conducted.

Results: Fifteen people answered the questionnaire (at least one HTA researcher from each agency), and forty people participated in the face-to-face discussion. Main barriers included the perception of a lack of institutional support, insufficient participative culture, lack of time and experience, and difficulties in planning. Facilitators included activities organized within the GIP and methodological procedures and documents published. The main proposals for improvement were focused on the training and capacity building of HTA researchers and patients, institutional commitment to patient involvement, promotion of forums and activities with patient entities, and improvement of communication channels with patients and dissemination.

Conclusions: Despite current challenges in patient involvement, this study highlights facilitators and proposals for improvement. Specialized training and education, along with the promotion of a participative culture, emerge as relevant strategies.

PP94 Chronic Obstructive Respiratory Disease Patients' Involvement In The Evaluation Of Transcutaneous Capnography In Primary Care

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Introduction: Patient participation in health technology assessment (HTA) plays an increasingly relevant role due to increased recognition of its essential contribution to addressing uncertainties in evidence and its real-world application. The objective is to analyze and describe how patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) participate in the evaluation of transcutaneous capnography (TC) in the primary care setting.

Methods: The Spanish Association of Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease facilitated contact with three COPD expert patients. A face-to-face video interview was conducted with each patient to know about their knowledge of the technology, real-life experiences, and expectations. Patients were informed of the objective of the evaluation and signed confidentiality and conflict of interest forms. All interviews were conducted in April 2023 by two researchers. Expert patients with COPD were able to participate in the review of the protocol and in the final version of the report. Literature searches were also conducted on patient perceptions of TC compared to arterial blood CO₂ measurement.

Results: All patients were male, older than 60 years and were ex-smokers with greater than 30 years of tobacco consumption. Patients highlighted the relevance of early detection of COPD to facilitate the planning and organization of treatment as their clinical situation progresses. Likewise, they also emphasized the importance of the implementation of less invasive tests, and the proximity and accessibility of primary care. Two studies reported greater patient satisfaction and less pain with TC than with arterial blood gases.

Conclusions: Expert patients show high expectations for the technology, as it is less invasive than arterial blood gases; they also acknowledged its proximity in primary care settings and the potential for detecting complications of oxygen therapy. Patient participation in HTA adds intangible value, as they provide "disease-specific knowledge" and real-life applicability of the technology.