

MCDA in health economics: The question is not *whether* but *how* to do it

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Abstract

The practice of health technology assessment (HTA) has traditionally been dominated by cost-effectiveness analyses, but the past few years have witnessed a surge of interest in the use of multi criteria decision analysis (MCDA). In this presentation, it is argued that multiple criteria are already being considered in HTA decisions and the question is not *whether* MCDA should be used in HTA, but rather *how*. The question of *how* to use multiple criteria in decisions is focused on whether to use quantitative MCDA models or a more deliberative MCDA approach – it is argued that this depends on the jurisdiction under consideration. Finally, the common aspects between MCDA and economic evaluation techniques such as cost-consequence analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis will be described before highlighting the need to develop guidance on ‘good MCDA practice in HTA’.

About Praveen Thokala

Praveen is a modeller at Health Economics and Decision Science in the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield. He has worked on several health economics projects including health technology assessments (HTA) and diagnostic assessments for the National Institute for Health Research and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). His experience includes working with NICE’s decision support unit on the applicability of MCDA in HTA. He’s currently supervising two PhD students in MCDA and has supported public health commissioners at local authorities in UK using MCDA approaches.