

외국의 경제성평가 자료의 국내 사용가능성에 대한 고찰 (Can Economic Evaluation Data from European Countries be Transferred to Korea ?)

Hye-won Koo

Medical Affairs, Novartis Korea Ltd.

Backgrounds: Due to great pressure for cost containment in health care sector, need of economic evaluation to aid reimbursement and/or pricing decision is rapidly increasing in Korea. Since conducting trials for every medicine is an expensive as well as unrealistic, health care decision makers may have to consider transfer of economic evaluation data from other country settings to Korean setting. Due to various factors to threat transferability of data, a drug can be cost-effective in one country and not cost-effective in another. Analysts, thus, need to assess the applicability of foreign data to the local setting before using them.

Objectives: This paper aimed to explore the feasibility of applying economic evaluation data from published European studies to Korean setting, and to discuss factors to limit the transferability.

Methods: First, availability of published studies for the use in Korea was explored using an example of stroke prevention by hypertension control. The results of literature search showed that the study exactly fits the research question is rarely available. Second, it was examined whether each data component of economic evaluations from the published studies can be adopted to Korean setting to estimate Korean specific cost-effectiveness results for the example. It was found that cost data were too problematic to be transferred due to distinctive difference in resource uses, as well as difference in unit costs.

Conclusion: It should be a priority to develop a database of basic unit cost, such as cost per inpatient day by type of clinic, or average consultation fee by disease classification, for the convenient use by various users in need of conducting economic studies. It will facilitate to fulfill the need to provide economic evaluation data in an efficient and timely manner. Second, local survey of resource uses is strongly recommended, rather than adapting published foreign data or using subjective assumptions, to have economic evaluations results of a quality. Finally, the study results show the need of formal guidelines to guarantee the transparent use of foreign data, thus to avoid any possible biased results. Objective and detailed instructions in using the data from other setting will prevent arbitrary use of data by authors.