

ECORYS

Research and Consulting



Facts and values, HTA and ethics: two cultures or two aspects of the same thing?

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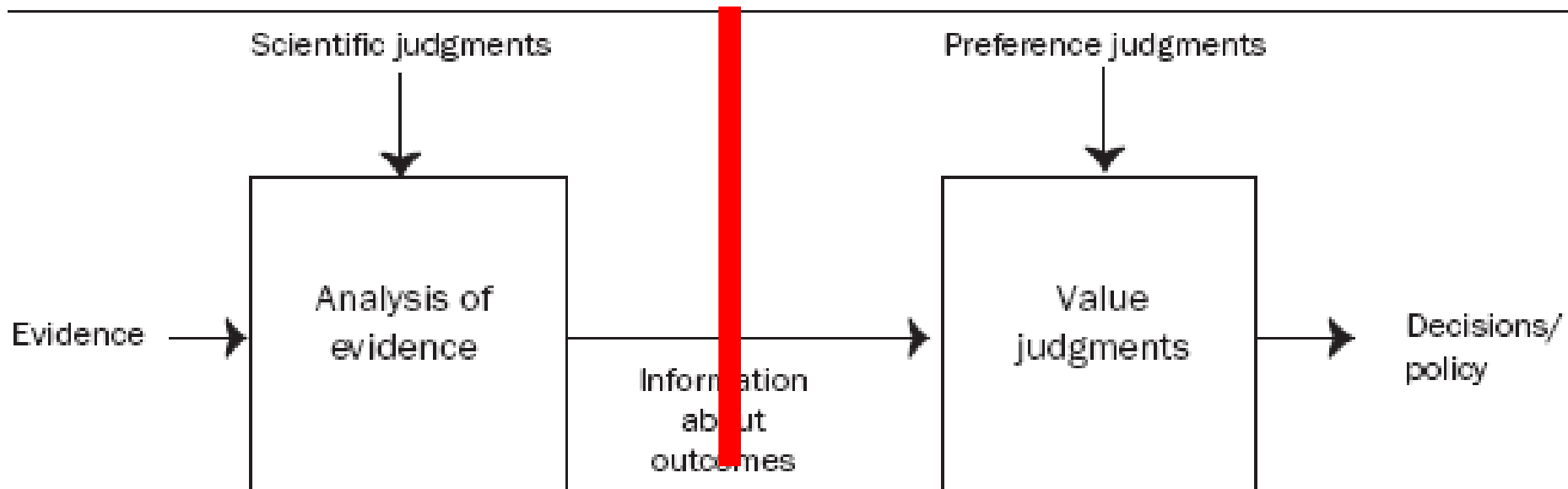
Preconference Workshop “Introduction to Ethics in HTA”
11th Annual Meeting HTAi, Washington D.C., USA, 14 June 2014

Health Technology Assessment

“A form of policy research that **systematically examines** short- and long-term consequences of the application of a health technology” (OTA, 1976)

“A structured **analysis** of a health technology, a set of related technologies, or a technology-related issue that is performed for the purpose of providing input to a **policy decision**” (Banta, 1997)

Two Main Components Of A Medical Decision



*Source: S.R. Tunis. Reflections on **science, judgment, and value** in Evidence-Based Decision Making: A conversation with David Eddy. In: Health Affairs, 2007*

Source: Tanja Krones & Daniel Strech

HTA and ethics

HTA is often perceived as value free.... “The founding disciplines of HTA are clearly scientific, and have been firmly based among the natural sciences.”

Source: B. Hofmann, GMS Health Technology Assessment 2013, Vol. 9

Facts and values

„Value judgments are indispensable to scientific practices such as defining research questions, making assumptions, setting significant thresholds, or balancing between the advantages and disadvantages of different methodologies (...) Scientific knowledge cannot be value free, but this does not make it any less scientific“

KW Fulford, 2006

Source: T. Krones, 2013 (KCE)

Relationship between ethics and HTA

- ‘Values’ **versus** ‘Facts’
 - HTAs provide facts; ethics judges facts
 - Ethical judgments create claims that can be tested empirically through HTAs

- ‘Values’ **and** ‘Facts’
 - Ethics contributes to how HTA is defined, implemented and interpreted, including **explicating underpinning values**

Source: A. Braunack-Mayer, HTAi, 2012

HTA and ethics

- Increasing awareness that developing, implementing, and using technology are not value-free acts
- HTA includes implicit knowledge, methodology, value framework – which?

Implicit value frameworks in HTA

- Focus on consequences and state of the art of (biomedical) medicine: Consequentialism and a positivistic understanding of science/rationalism
- Evaluation mainly based on empirical evidence
- Utilitarian approach, with or without additionally embedding societies/patients perspectives on technology outcomes/consequences through QALY, HYE, other survey measures,....
- Main outcome focus on cost-effectiveness/utility of new versus established technologies

Source: T. Krones, KCE, 2013

Goals of HTA => value laden

- Justice
- Equal access
- Avoid practice variations
- Fairness
- Avoid wasteful health care
- Rationing
- Research allocation
- Prioritization
- Quality assurance / improvement
- Cost containment

Source: B. Hofmann, HTAi, 2013

Facts meet values

- Throughout the process of HTA:
 - Identification of technologies/diseases
 - Priority-setting
 - Assessment & Appraisal
 - Dissemination of HTA findings
 - Implementation of HTA findings

Source: E. Heitman. Ethical issues in technology assessment: conceptual categories and procedural considerations. *International Journal of Technology assessment in Health Care* 1998; 14: 544-566

Different actors make different decisions

Standard Treatment

- Costs: €100

- Cures: 10/20

New Treatment

- Costs: €120 per patient treated

- Cures: 11/20

A. Which treatment would you want as a **patient**?

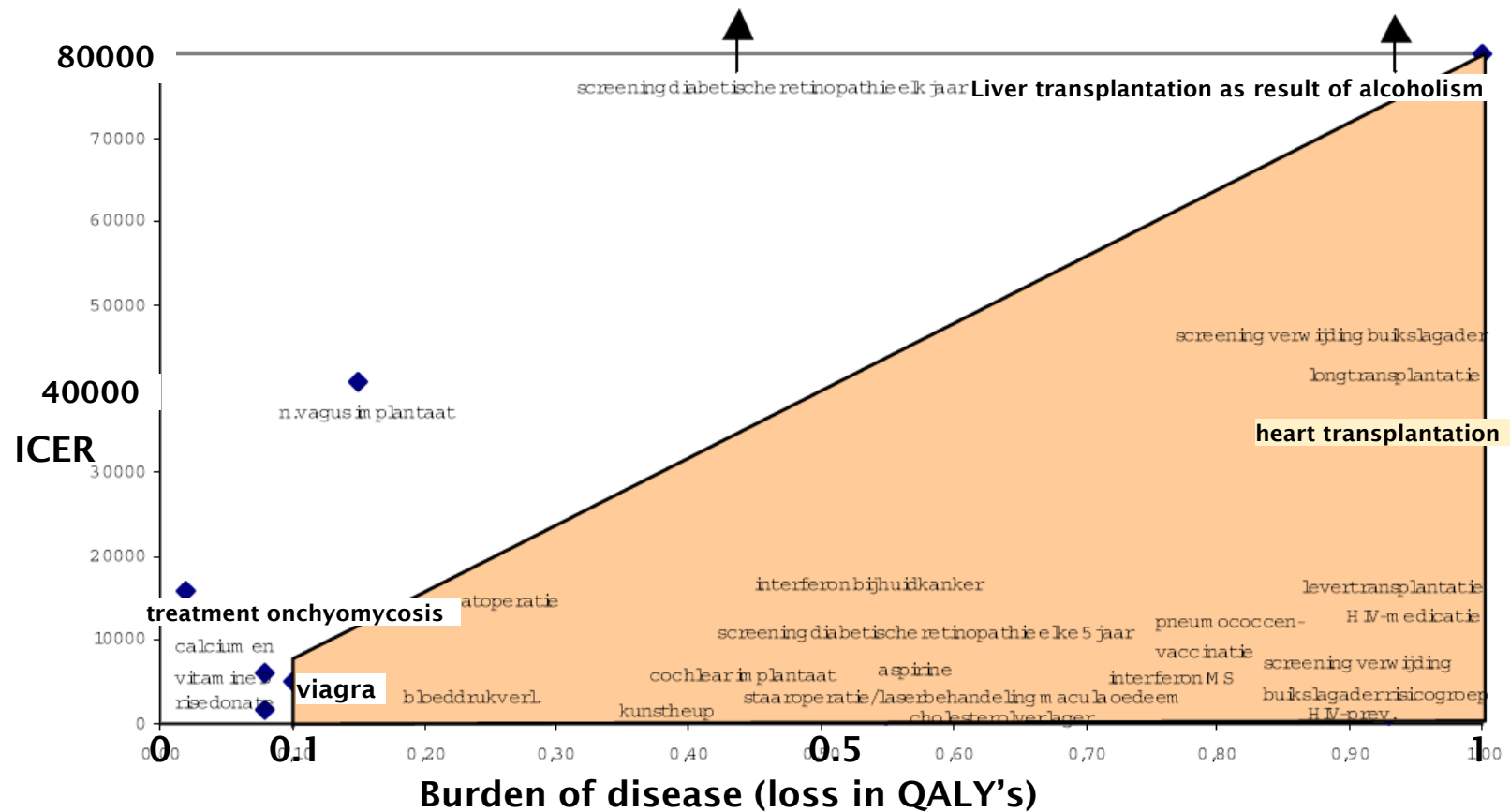
B. Which treatment should a **policy maker** reimburse?

Actors – whose views and values?

- **Individual patient/health professional:** treatment with most health benefits
- **Healthcare system/policy maker:** treatment with best health benefits relative to costs
- **Payer:** treatment with lowest cost
- **Society:** treatments with health and social benefits relative to other uses of public funds

Also academia, industry, carers etc.

Example: Health care decision making in the NL



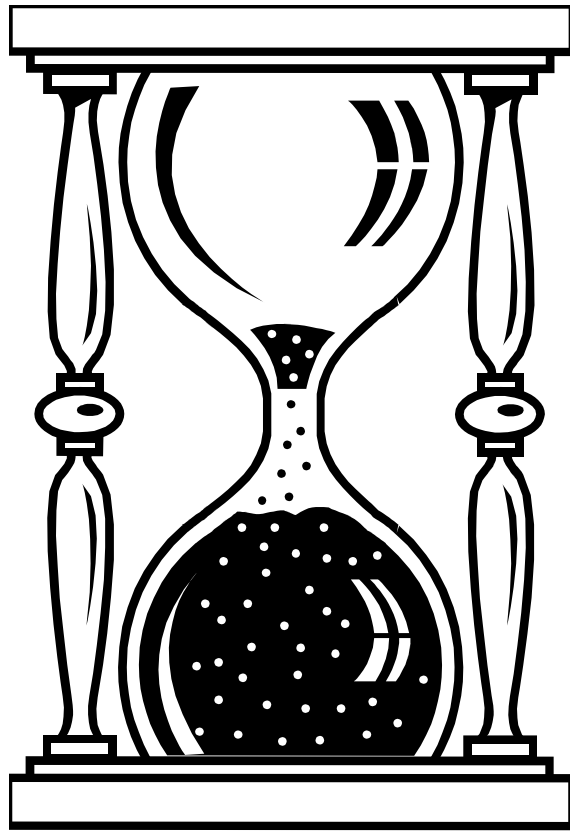
Sources: RVZ 2006; W. Goettsch, HTAi, 2009

Key message

**Values are an integrated part of HTA –
Ethics is an analysis of normative issues**

**Integrating ethics in HTA....leads to a
WIN/WIN situation**

Questions?



THANK YOU!

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