

## **EARLY COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDICAL TESTS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND ISCHEMIC STROKE**

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- 1 A well-designed early-CEA methodology helps to develop (cost-)effective medical tests efficiently. (*this thesis*)
- 2 If important practice variation or deviation from the clinical guidelines exists, the test strategy that is actually provided in hospitals should be compared with the new test strategy. (*this thesis*)
- 3 Analysis of recent data shows that the hospital costs of ischemic stroke have substantially declined in the past 10 years. (*this thesis*)
- 4 New tests to diagnose rheumatoid arthritis in inflammatory arthritis patients are cost-effective when they are used as an add-on for intermediate-risk patients, have a high specificity, and cost no more than €200-€300. (*this thesis*)
- 5 The value of a confirmatory imaging test strategy to select appropriate treatment for patients with a recent TIA or minor ischemic stroke is limited when compared to the guideline-based test strategy. (*this thesis*)
- 6 Precision medicine – in some cases, people call it personalized medicine – gives us one of the greatest opportunities for new medical breakthroughs that we have ever seen. (*Barack Obama*)
- 7 Medical science has made such tremendous progress that there is hardly a healthy human left. (*Aldous Huxley*)
- 8 The science of today is the technology of tomorrow. (*Edward Teller*)
- 9 Involvement of the different stakeholders in early cost-effectiveness analyses of medical tests and discussion of the results leads to improved decisions.
- 10 If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research. (*Albert Einstein*)
- 11 Every mountain top is within reach if you just keep climbing. (*Barry Finlay*)