

The role of epidemiology within HTA: a systematic review of epidemiological methods in assessing the burden of cardiovascular disease risk factors

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Background

The use of epidemiology in producing evidence is crucial for Health Technology Assessment (HTA). The aim of this study was to perform a systematic review on the epidemiological methods used in assessing the burden of cardiovascular disease risk factors.

Methods

We searched on scientific literature databases (Pubmed and Scopus) using the following keywords: “Health technology assessment”, “cardiovascular”, “risk factors”. A narrative review was conducted for describing the results.

Results

The search on Pubmed and Scopus retrieved 256 and 280 abstracts, respectively. The systematic review showed a wide variety of methods in assessing the burden of cardiovascular disease risk factors. The vast majority of them are concerning the development of algorithms, health screening, risk assessment, the use of position paper and the prediction of 10-year risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Conclusions

The different epidemiological methodologies applied to this field confirm the crucial role of epidemiology in the production of HTA reports and scientific literature.