ABSTRACT

QUALITY OF STUDIES SUBMITTED FOR INCORPORATION OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

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INTRODUCTION

In hospitals with standardized Health Technology Assessment (HTA) processes, clinical studies are required to support incorporation. When submitted the best evidence by the requester, the process is facilitated. Several factors affect the quality of the submitted evidence, such as conflicts of interest, confirmation bias, and ability to search and analyze evidence. The objective of this study was to evaluate the quality of the attached studies to support the incorporation of non-drug technologies.

METHODS

The submissions made by the clinical staff in a university hospital from 2017 to 2019 were reviewed. Data were collected on the studies submitted, on the additional search performed by the NATS, and the use of recommendations was highlighted. Data were tabulated and presented descriptively.

RESULTS

Fifteen requests for incorporation of equipment and devices were analyzed; the average of attached studies was 4.5. Eight (53.3%) requests were submitted to systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials. In 7 (46.70%) only narrative reviews, nonrandomized studies and case series were included; In these, the additional search identified randomized studies and systematic reviews in 4 cases. Only 4 (26.7%) included high quality studies that were used to support the recommendation. No requester has described terms, databases, and search filter.

CONCLUSION

The data allow us to conclude that applicants do not always submit the best evidence. In order to qualify the technology incorporation request, a greater familiarity of applicants with HTA concepts and methods could be helpful in this regard.

Keywords: evidence, non-drug technologies, incorporation, hospital.