**Hormonal measurements in Endocrinology: cost-effectiveness and review of the literature**

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Health care advances, and particularly diagnostic tests such as hormonal measurements in endocrinology, must demonstrate to be cost/effective. Rising health care costs and limited financial possibilities question their values, pushing the clinicians to examine the efficiency of current practice.

Cost effective analysis in endocrinology takes into account monetary and health outcomes. The relative value of an intervention is measured as the additional cost to achieve a health benefit such as euros to prevent hypertension morbidity due to primary aldosteronism and/or complications induced by hyperthyroidism.

For this presentation, we have reviewed, among more than 600 abstracts, relevant papers found in PubMed database. Papers were identified crossing match the following key words: cost-effectiveness, endocrinology, thyroid hormones, adrenal hypertension, parathormone and hCG test.

In the first part of the talk, we discuss cost-effectiveness of thyroid hormone measurements during pregnancy, acute illness and subclinical hypothyroidism. In the second part of the talk, we present recent data about primary hyperaldosteronism and cost effectiveness of different diagnostic strategies. Finally in the last section, we describe cost effectiveness studies in hyperparathyroidism and hCG pregnancy tests.

As financial pressures in the health system increase, it is no longer acceptable for physicians to only manage the safety, efficacy and effectiveness of medical practice. Cost-effective analysis is an evidence based method to evaluate the value of hormonal diagnostic tests.