European Payer Advisors: Use of Observational Studies for Health Care Reimbursement Decisions

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BACKGROUND
As cost-containment pressures across Europe intensify, the evidence that health care decision makers need to make informed, cost-effectiveness decisions becomes more crucial. Observational studies provide valuable evidence and are integral to the evidentiary process. To explore the way European payer advisors are using observational studies (OSD), RTI Health Solutions conducted a survey of payers in Europe in 2013. This paper outlines the results of the survey.

METHODS
• Reviewed published literature, health technology assessment (HTA) reports, and third-party websites to identify the types of observational studies most valuable to payer advisors in Europe.
• Conducted 10 qualitative one-on-one interviews with payer decision makers from the RTI Health Solutions (RTI-HS) European Union Payer Advisor Panel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
What type of observational study data (OSD) do you use, how often, and why?

How high of a priority is OSD in decision making (Figure 1)?
• 82% of respondents indicated that they used OSD in decision making.
• The payer rating OSD priority as a 10 indicated: "Observational data are crucial in filling the gaps of RCTs. RCTs are over a short period of time, provide no resource use data and often do not include a relevant comparator arm. RCTs are designed for the regulatory approval process (not for determining whether a medical technology is good value for money)."
• The payer rating OSD priority as a 0 indicated: "Need to perform studies slowly and evaluate more. Need to look observational study data to confirm results (e.g., RCTs)"

Here are the survey results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>How often used?</th>
<th>What type of observational study is used most in your country?</th>
<th>Why is it most useful?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Observational studies with a meta-analysis</td>
<td>Provides comprehensive information about real-world interventions and outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Retrospective studies</td>
<td>Provides comprehensive information about real-world interventions and outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Prospective studies</td>
<td>Provides comprehensive information about real-world interventions and outcomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES

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