

-----VA Technology Watch-----February 2000--

Notes on Health Care Technologies from the VA Technology Assessment Program

This new monthly news e-mail results from our ongoing interviews with VA Clinical Managers. Please forward it to anyone who might be interested.

Below, we present Notes & Reports from various sources on new, emerging, interesting, and current health care technologies for VA Clinical Managers.

- This month we attach a link to our NEW Short Report on Computerized Microprocessor Controlled Knee Prostheses.
http://www.va.gov/vatap/pubs/ta_short_3_00.pdf

Two additional short reports are in the works on Cardioplegia and Cryosurgery for Prostate Cancer. We will E-mail them when they are ready.

- The TAP has sent a notebook to you containing briefs of all TA Systematic Review Reports to date. Included here are two briefs on our most recent reports. Full TAP reports are on the same web page:
 - **Erectile Dysfunction:** http://www.va.gov/vatap/pubs/PET_11.pdf
 - **Positron Emission Tomography-An Update:**
<http://www.va.gov/vatap/pubs/petreport.htm>

Recent assessment reports from other agencies:

- **Prostate cancer:** This report summarizes scientific evidence regarding the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of mass screening for prostate cancer. Routine screening for prostate cancer is not recommended because of lack of evidence regarding the benefits and risks of adverse effects of subsequent treatment. <http://www.inahta.org/> [click on Publications, then choose Joint Projects]
- **PET:** This project documents PET use and related public health coverage in countries of INAHTA members and synthesizes 31 technology assessments of PET conducted by INAHTA members and three private US organizations. <http://www.inahta.org/> [click on Publications, then choose Joint Projects]

- **Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment:** This hot topic is updated in the ISTAHC journal article: Health Technology Assessment and Policy Decisions on Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment. Mitton and Hailey. 15:4 (1999), 661-670. Get the report on the web:
<http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta/hta-publications/reports/hbot.1.php>

Web based information you can use:

- A recent **BMJ** article on: How do new technologies get into practice? Keeping pace with new technologies the impact of new technologies in medicine. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/abridged/319/7220/1291>
- **MEDSCAPE** edited by George Lundberg MD is a great way to keep up on a daily or weekly basis with their daily coverage of health care. You sign on free and stay current at your own pace.
<http://www.medscape.com/px/urlinfo>

Have a technology question? Please contact us:

VA Technology Assessment Program

Technology Assessment Program (11T)
Boston VA Healthcare System
150 So. Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02130 USA

Tel: 857-364-4469 Fax: 857-364-6587 E-mail: VATAP@med.va.gov

We can provide short reports synthesizing the published medical literature and other information-highlighting the strengths, weaknesses, and levels of scientific evidence supporting use of a specific technology.

The short report takes two to four weeks and is tailored to your specific needs.

Food for Thought: Methods for reviewing evidence are equivalent to and as important as methods for conducting primary research.

Watch for the March E-mail -- We welcome your feedback!