Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of disease and economic evaluation: are we investigating what really matters?

Version: 2 Date: 29 January 2011

Reviewer: Jaume Puig-Junoy

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The object of this paper is to previous known low correlation between economic evaluation studies and disease burden in Spain.

The paper is well organized, well written, and well performed. The topic of the paper is not too original and the level of contribution to the literature is not high. However, the goal of this paper is relevant and may have many policy implications.

The discussion section of the paper could be improved by considering the following minor essential questions:

a) Considering that the correlation between economic evaluation studies and burden disease is relatively low (in this and other papers in the literature), what are then the factors that drive the published economics studies?

b) From the social welfare perspective, do you think that economic evaluation studies should be more correlated with the burden disease or with the number of innovations or with the presence of treatments with higher cost per QALY? Of course, policy implications may arise from the response to this question.

c) More in-depth discussion of the results of this paper compared to those of the similar literature in other geographic areas.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.