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European Association of Urology



## Letter to the Editor

**Reply to Diana A. Castillo-Jimenez and Herney A. García-Perdomo's Letter to the Editor re: Niranjn J. Sathianathen, Badrinath R. Konety, Fernando Alarid-Escudero, Nathan Lawrentschuk, Damien M. Bolton, Karen M. Kuntz. Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Active Surveillance Strategies for Men with Low-risk Prostate Cancer. Eur Urol 2019;75:910–7. Standardized Reporting for Economic Analyses Should be Mandatory**

We thank Castillo-Jimenez and García-Perdomo for their letter on our article [1] and the reporting of cost-effectiveness analyses. Overall, we agree with the authors that the transparent reporting of these types of studies are of utmost importance to enable readers to assess the validity of the results.

We attempted to adhere to the Recommendations for Conduct, Methodological Practices, and Reporting of Cost-effectiveness Analyses outlined by the Second Panel on Cost-Effectiveness in Health and Medicine and used their checklist to guide our reporting of results [2]. Therefore, we would like to clarify for readers some of the issues raised in the above letter. We state in our paper that the analysis was performed from a health sector perspective and most of the costs are derived from US Medicare sources. This is further highlighted in the Conclusions section, where we state that incorporation of magnetic resonance imaging into active surveillance protocols is only cost-effective when costs are at Medicare rates. Second, the model inputs were informed by the best available evidence at the time of model development and these are cited appropriately as recommended. These included thorough systematic reviews that were conducted by other authors [3] and thus we did not need to repeat these. Nonetheless, we do acknowledge that a description of the study selection process would be useful for readers even though this is not an explicit requirement of the checklist.

Transparent methodology and reporting are vital to ensure that models are applicable and reliable. The Second Panel on Cost-Effectiveness in Health and Medicine, the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, and the Society for Medical Decision Making Modeling Good Research Practices Task Force provide detailed guidelines for both methodology and reporting [2,4]. To facilitate the former, in the future we will endeavor to use free, open source software to develop our models and publish them (<https://github.com/urology-models>) so that they are reproducible. Use of the reporting checklist [2] and mandating the inclusion of this as an appendix in publications of cost-effectiveness analyses will ensure that all the key elements of the model are presented to readers.

**Conflicts of interest:** The authors have nothing to disclose.

## References

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