



Centre universitaire de santé McGill
McGill University Health Centre

**Technology Assessment Unit of
the McGill University Health Centre**

TAU Annual Report

April 1, 2008- March 31, 2009



For information on this publication or on any other report of the MUHC TAU, please address your inquiries to the:

Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre
Royal Victoria Hospital, Ross Pavilion, R4.14
687 Pine Ave. West, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1A1 Canada
Telephone: 514-934-1934 ext: 36564 Facsimile: 514-843-1493
E-mail : TAU@muhc.mcgill.ca
Webpage : www.mcgill.ca/tau/

Mission Statement

- To advise the hospital in difficult resource allocation decisions, using an approach based on sound, scientific technology assessments, and a transparent, fair decision-making process.
- To publish its research in peer-reviewed journals when appropriate, and contribute to the training of personnel in the field of health technology assessment.

MUHC JOINT TAU Executive Committee (as of August 31 2008)

James Brophy – Director

(MUHC members)

Juliana Arnoldo

Multidisciplinary Council

André Bonnici

P&T Committee

John Johnston

Patients' Committee

Christian Janicki

Quality Management

Gary Pekeles MD

Council of Physicians and Dentists

Judith Ritchie PhD

Council of Nurses

Gary Stoopler

Administration

Dr. Maurice McGregor - Chairperson

(CHUM members)

Luc Amendola

CMDP Pharmacy

VACANT

Director General

VACANT

CMDP Medical

Josée Breton

Nursing

Jean-Marie Dumesnil

Patients' Committee

Pierrette Gervais

Administration

Georges Kasparian

Multidisciplinary Council

MUHC TAU Executive Committee (September 2008 to March 31, 2009)

Nandini Dendukuri – Director Dr. Maurice McGregor - Chairperson

Committee Members

Discipline

André Bonnici	P & T Committee
Sandra Dial	Clinical Epidemiology
Christian Janicki	Quality Management
Brenda MacGibbon-Taylor	Patients' Committee
Gary Pekeles	Council of Physicians & Dentists
Guylaine Potvin	Multidisciplinary Council
Judith Ritchie	Council of Nurses
Hugh Scott	Consultant (Invited Member)
Gary Stoopler	Administration

Administrative Changes

MUHC TAU UNIT

In April 2008, Dr. James Brophy, the Director, since the inception, of the MUHC and Joint TAU Units, was awarded an FRSQ-MSSS-MUHC Research Chair in Technology Assessment and Evidence-based Medicine, thereby, stepping down from the Director position of our Unit. Dr. Brophy remains a research consultant to our Unit.

Dr. Nandini Dendukuri became the new Director of the MUHC TAU Unit in September 2008. Dr. Dendukuri has been a Research Scientist at the MUHC TAU since 2003. Congratulations on your appointment as Director of our Unit. We wish you much success.

Dr. Lonny Erickson, a research scientist, who joined our Unit in October 2004, left in May 2008. We thank Lonny for his contribution to our Unit and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

Dr. Shahrokh Esfandiari joined our Unit in August of 2008 and left one year later to pursue his research in Oral Health Technology Assessment.

Irene Pan MSc, joined our Unit as a Research Assistant/Epidemiologist in early 2009.

Mr. John Johnston, patients' committee representative since the inception of our Unit, retired from the executive committee in 2008. We would like to thank and gratefully acknowledge his involvement and support of our committee during his long tenure.

Dr. Brenda MacGibbon-Taylor is the new representative of the Patients' Committee.

Ms. Juliana Arnoldo, multidisciplinary council representative, left in 2008. We thank, Juliana, for her generous support and commitment to our committee. We welcome Mme Guylaine Potvin who kindly accepted to be the new representative on our committee for the Multidisciplinary Council.

CHUM TAU UNIT

We would like to thank all of the committee members from the CHUM who gave of their time and support to our Joint Unit from its inception in 2005. We would especially like to thank Dr. Alain Lapointe and Dr. Mouhcine Nassef for their contribution to our Joint TAU reports and look forward to working with them on future projects. We wish Dr. Luigi Lepanto, appointed Director of the CHUM TAU much success in his new position.

This publication was written by Lorraine Mines of the Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC TAU). This document is available in PDF format on our website: <http://www.mcgill.ca/tau/publications/annual>

TAU Reports

NOTE: Projects are researched and drafts prepared by members of the MUHC TAU, referred below as "the authors". They are assisted by expert consultants appointed for each project. Draft reports are then circulated, reviewed, amended and finally approved by the full Executive Committee who thereby become "the authors" of the final report.

From April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 the following two reports were approved:

Liquid Based Cytology

Requestor:	Dr. Françoise Chagnon, Director of Professional Services, MUHC
Title:	Adoption de la cytologie en milieu liquide: Évaluation technologique
Publication date:	June 2008
Author(s):	Alain Lapointe, Lonny Erickson, James Brophy
Consultants:	Dr Manon Auger, Marie-Hélène Mayrand et Yvan Boivin
Background:	This report was undertaken to find out what would the budget impact be on the cytopathology lab of the MUHC to switch from conventional cytology (CC) to liquid-based cytology (LBC) ?
Recommendation(s):	Due to the marginal clinical benefits of liquid based cytology and the major cost increase with the adoption of this technology compared to standard Pap smear testing, the Joint Technology Assessment Unit of MUHC and CHUM recommends that both institutions NOT switch to the systematic use of liquid-based cytology at this time.

Coblation Tonsillectomy

Requestor:	Barbara Izzard, Associate Director of Nursing , the Montréal Children's Hospital (MCH) of MUHC.
Title:	Comparison of Coblation Tonsillectomy and Electrocautery Tonsillectomy in Pediatric Patients.
Publication date:	November 12, 2008
Author(s):	Xuanqian Xie, Nandini Dendukuri, Maurice McGregor
Consultants:	Dr. M. Schloss Director of Otorhinolaryngologists, MCH Dr. T. Tewfik Otorhinolaryngologist, MCH MGH L. Sand Nurse Manager, MCH
Background:	Report requested on July 15, 2008, by Barbara Izzard, Associate Director of Nursing , the Montréal Children's Hospital (MCH) of MUHC.
Recommendation(s):	Considering the evidence and opportunity costs involved, the committee concluded that the small though measurable reduction in post-operative pain did not justify the additional cost. Accordingly, they recommend that the hospital should not authorize purchase of this technology. However, they strongly urge the department of pediatric otolaryngology to carry out a research study to evaluate it.

Diffusion

As TAU gains maturity, it is being increasingly recognized as an innovative and effective model for health technology assessment. This recognition has taken several avenues:

1. Our reports are indexed in the international database for the Center for Reviews and Dissemination, York University, UK. <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/crddatabases.htm>
2. Our reports are diffused from our website (www.mcgill.ca/tau) . Between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 our website received 120,138 hits.

Work in Progress

1. The Use of Probiotics in the Prevention and Treatment of Clostridium Difficile Diarrhea. Update to 2005 report
 2. The Use of Matrix Coils in the Treatment of Cerebro-vascular Aneurysms. Update to June 2004
 3. Use of carmustine implants (GLIADEL wafers) in patients with malignant glioma at the MUHC. Update to January 2004
 4. An evaluation of radiofrequency ablation for liver and kidney tumors.
 5. An evaluation of DermaMatrix, an acellular cadaveric dermis, which can be used for breast reconstruction and complicated ventral hernia repair.
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TAU Related Activities

Dr. McGregor is a member of the International Expert Committee advising the Institut für Qualität und Wirtschaftlichkeit im Gesundheitswesen (IQWiG) of Germany on Methods for Economic Evaluation of Health Care Interventions.

Dr. Dendukuri represents TAU at quarterly meetings of hospital-based technology assessment units in Quebec that are organized at AETMIS.

Dr. McGregor is the Chair of the Research Committee of the Montréal based Portage Programme, and a regular contributor to the Executive Training for Research Application (EXTRA) program for health executives.

Collaboration with the Nijmegen Center for Evidence Based Practice, Nijmegen, The Netherlands to train students in technology assessment; to date five international graduate students have completed a 4-5 month training program in Health Technology Assessment as well as one student from the University of Montreal's ULYSSES program, an international master's program in Health Technology Assessment and Management (HTA&M).

Presentations

1. Dendukuri N. "Comparison of Coblation Tonsillectomy and Electrocautery Tonsillectomy in Pediatric Patients". Atelier enjeux et pratiques, Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé(AETMIS), Montreal. February 2009.
2. McGregor M. Promoting the Use of Research-Based Evidence in Health-Organizations. In: Executive Training for Research Application (EXTRA).Kananaskis, Alta, August 14, 2008.
3. McGregor M. HTA in health systems and health decision-making. In: CIHR Training Programme in Health Technology Assessment and Transfer in General and Oral Health.Montréal. July 15, 2008.
4. Lapointe A, Brophy JM. Joint Health Technology Assessment: Can 2 university hospitals work collaboratively? HTAi Montreal July 2008
5. Lapointe A, Brophy J, McGregor M. Sacral nerve stimulation in the management of urinary and fecal incontinence: Experience of two teaching hospitals. Vth Annual Meeting of HTAi, Montréal, July 8, 2008.
6. McGregor M. HTA in the hospital. A 6-year experience. HTAi Vth Annual meeting. Plenary session. Montréal. July 9, 2008.
7. Filion K, Xie X, van der Avoort CJ, Dendukuri N, Brophy JM. Microvolt T-wave Alternans and the Selective Use of Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators for Primary Prevention: A

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis. MUHC Health outcomes Research Day. June 5 2008.
Montreal

8. Caro J, Kolominsky-Rabas P, McGregor M, Henry D. Informing Decision Makers in Germany: The IQWiG Approach ISPOR. Toronto. May 6, 2008.
9. McGregor M. Health Technology Assessment from a Local Hospital Prospective. Health Technology Assessment: from Theory to Evidence to Policy. HTAI workshop. Toronto. May 2, 2008.
10. Brophy JM. Laval University. "The influence of university based health technology assessments." Ste. Foy Quebec. April 16 2008.

Peer-reviewed Publications

1. *van der Avoort C, *Filion K, Dendukuri N, Brophy J. Microvolt T-Wave Alternans as a Predictor of Non-Ischemic Cardiac Events: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Biomed Central Cardiology, 9:5. 2009
2. Filion K, Xie X, van der Avoort C, Dendukuri N, Brophy J. Microvolt T-wave alternans and the selective use of implantable cardioverter defibrillators for primary prevention: A cost-effectiveness study. International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care, 25(2):151-60. 2009
3. Oughton M, Loo V, Dendukuri N, Fenn S, Lynch A, Libman M. Plain soap and water are superior to alcohol rub and antiseptic wipes for removal of Clostridium difficile by handwashing. Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, 30(10):939-44. 2009

Postscript

The TAU attempts to adjust the services we offer to conform to the resources available in a transparent, logical, fair, and consistent fashion. While some of our decisions have not supported the acquisition of a technology, and have thus "saved money", others have supported new developments because they have identified the benefits, and found them to be sufficient to justify the increased expenditure. Our sincere thanks are due to the many members of the MUHC who have assisted with data collection, to those who have served as Consultants, and to the members of the Committee who have dedicated many hours to the consideration of these problems. *Maurice McGregor.*