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HTA Based on Comparative Effectiveness:

The French "Exception"
– Life Without Cost-Effectiveness

France is still considered as a paradigmatic country in terms of its refusal to consider health economic assessments when deciding on access to reimbursement and pricing of drugs and medical devices.

In my presentation, I will show that the NICE paradigm is orthogonal to the founding principles of the National Social Security, which clearly states that all effective new treatment should be covered, whatever their costs. Thus, this leads to a process in which it is the clinical assessment of an innovation that leads to access to reimbursement, not its cost-effectiveness. Then the pricing of an innovation will be a function of its relative effectiveness, in a given domain.

Thus the French system is not "utilitarian", but attempts to offer an equal opportunity of access to innovation for all domains of illness; cost-effectiveness analysis will then be used to optimize resources use in a given area, once the treatments are on the market, but not across the board and not to control access to reimbursement. Pros and cons of this approach will be discussed.