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## **TRANSFERABLE LESSONS FROM HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT IN BRAZIL TO EMERGING COUNTRIES**

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**Background:** Emerging countries often face similar challenges in introducing Health Technology Assessment (HTA) frameworks. Such a reality highlights the potential to share insights and strategies. In Brazil, HTA has developed rapidly to support a more rational decision-making process at both clinical and policy levels. It has been institutionalized by the creation of a national HTA agency (CONITEC).

**Objective:** To identify transferable lessons learned from Brazil to emerging countries such as China and India in terms of HTA processes and implementation.

**Methods:** A literature survey, in the languages – English and Portuguese – was performed and publications from 1999 to 2014 were retrieved from PubMed/Medline, Science Direct (Elsevier), LILACS and SciELO. MeSH terms were <Brazil> OR <China> OR <India> AND [health technology assessment]. Sixteen articles dealing with HTA frameworks were selected. Further, an in-depth analysis was conducted of 124 CONITEC reports published between 2012 and 2014, of which two-thirds focusing on drugs and vaccines.

**Results:** Unlike China and India, Brazil has established a centralized framework for HTA. 43% of requests for drug incorporation received a positive recommendation. 69% of these were presented by the Ministry of Health. Most incorporated drugs and vaccines were part of the National Medicines List, revealing a model of adequate health priority-setting that emerging countries such as China and India could potentially learn from. Other transferable lessons from Brazil are proper methodology guidelines for economic evaluation and systematic reviews; a 180-day timeline both for instruction and drug procurement after incorporation; the effective use of a public consultation process; finally, the public accessibility of HTA reports.

**Conclusions:** The Brazilian experience shows that HTA can provide information needed for evidence-based policies, and offers lessons transferable to other emerging countries.