

New IVI Issue Brief Discusses Limitations of ICER Analysis of JAK Inhibitors

Value Assessment Methods Must Compare Full Range of Available Therapies and Model Varying Treatment Sequences, IVI Says

Alexandria, VA – December 10, 2019 – The Innovation and Value Initiative (IVI), a non-profit research organization dedicated to improving the science and practice of value assessment, released an [issue brief](#) today discussing the limitations of value assessments like the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review’s (ICER) recent analysis of Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitors for the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). The issue brief examines how ICER’s analysis fails to consider JAK inhibitors’ place in the broader therapeutic landscape.

“ICER’s narrow modeling scope examines JAK inhibitors as though they are used in isolation, which does not necessarily align with the realities of RA treatment or stakeholders’ desire to find the most appropriate, cost-effective treatment strategies,” said Mark Linthicum, IVI’s Director of Scientific Communications and one of the lead authors of the brief.

RA is the most common autoimmune inflammatory arthritis in adults and often negatively impacts patients’ quality of life. As with many chronic illnesses, there is no cure for RA, and RA patients are treated over many years, during which they are likely to cycle through multiple treatment options. JAKs represent only a handful of the different therapies that can be used during a lengthy course of treatment.

“In the context of chronic illnesses like RA, decision-makers can often reliably predict that a patient will progress through a series of treatment lines as therapies fail or disease progresses. To support decisions that account for that broader context, value assessment must allow for the comparison of treatment strategies, rather than individual therapies. They must also account for differences in treatment effect and outcomes across patient populations,” explained Linthicum.

In contrast, IVI’s open-source IVI-RA model offers an example of how the effects of patients’ treatment histories on therapies’ performance can be incorporated into simulation models. IVI-RA is an individual-patient simulation model, which allows, for example, the duration of each treatment in a sequence to be modeled in line with the available evidence.

“At the end of the day – to be relevant to decision makers -- we need value models that compare the full range of available therapies, and model varying treatment sequences,” said Jennifer Bright, IVI’s executive director. “The IVI-RA model is able to account for data relevant to what real-world decisions patients and their physicians confront. We invite value assessment stakeholders and healthcare decision makers to look under the hood of our models and learn how they may provide relevant insights to treatment sequencing questions.”

IVI's latest brief is the fifth in their *Value Blueprints* series, designed to profile learnings from the Open-Source Value Project to spark exploration among health economics and outcomes research community into advancing next-generation value assessment methods.

About IVI

IVI is part of IVI Foundation, a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt non-profit research organization dedicated to advancing the science and improving the practice of value assessment through development of novel methods and the creation and application of enhanced value assessment models to support local decision-making needs in healthcare.

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