

THANKS FOR AHMAD AL-TANJY.ABDULAZIZ AL-SHAMALI FOR COLLABORATION IN THE 1ST PART OF THE LECT WITH THE DOCTOR ...

# Pharmacoeconomics Discounting

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### Learning outcomes

- By the end of the lecture, you will be expected to:
  - Understand discounting technique
  - Understand the rationale for discounting in Health economics
  - Understand the time preference for income today rather than income in the future
  - Understand the way discounting adjusts for costs (and benefits) occurring at different points in time.

# Think what would you prefer

- To be given 100 JDs today or after 5 years?
  - Hint (think of this in term opportunity cost associated with deferred consumption; i.e. the value of what is foregone by not having the \$100 over the next five years (% of interest)

\$100 five years from now is valued less than \$100 today



# Think what would you prefer

• If I ask you to borrow 1000 JDs today and assured you to pay them back in the next 3 years.

- You wouldn't agree to lent me the money unless I paid you back more than 1000.
- Money promised in future, health cost savings promised in future is valued less than money received today

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WHY value of money decrease overtime?

✓ People prefer to receive money now rather than later because they can generate benefits immediately

✓ People prefer to pay out money later rather than now

# Another example

- Think of the benefit or outcomes of surgery vs. long-term treatment with medication for knee pain?
- In this situation, surgical costs are incurred in the present, whereas medication costs stretch well into the future.



- Discounting is an economic method that captures an individual's preference for income today rather than income in the future.
- This time preference is often explained by the opportunity cost of interest. Income earned today can earn interest الرحم ببتل قبية المصاري لي المسافعة المصاري لي In numbers;
- In numbers;
- an interest rate of 3 %, a payment of \$100 today is worth more than the same payment in one year because JDs 3 of interest can be earned if the payment is received today

You would have 103 JDs (PV = payment/ (1+r), r is the interest

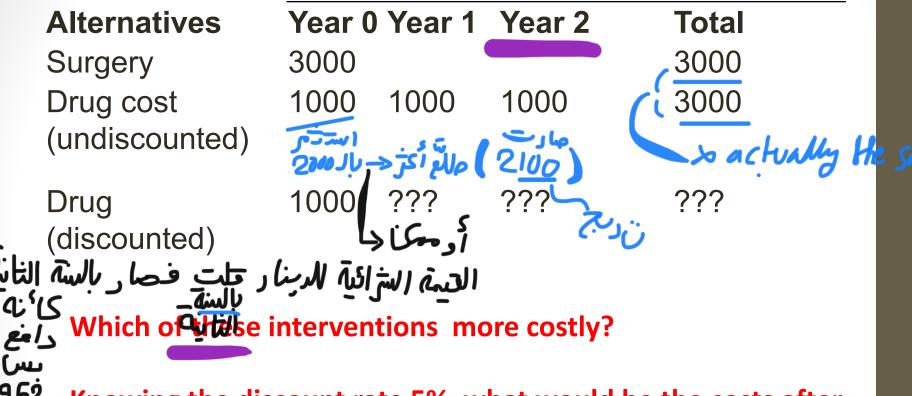
#### **Discount Rate for Future Costs**

- Determination of the most appropriate discount rate for costs in economic analyses is still being debated by health economists, though typically rates of 3% to 5% are used.
- Discounting occur when intervention lasts for more than one year. Not discounting will lead to overestimate the future costs and benefit.
- In practice, most health economists agree that it is reasonable to select a central "best estimate" of the discount rate, such as 2%, and to then determine the effect that higher and lower rates (e.g. 2% to 6%) have on study findings and conclusions (i.e. sensitivity analysis).



- In any economic evaluation where costs and benefits occur over a number of years should consider discounting.
- Discounting adjusts for costs (and benefits) occurring at different points in time.





Knowing the discount rate 5%, what would be the costs after year 1 and 2?

# Answers

<b>Alternatives</b>	Year (	Year 1	Year 2	Total	
Surgery	3000			3000	
Drug cost (undiscounted)	1000	1000	1000	3000	
Drug (discounted)	1000	952	907	2859	

• What do you think?

#### Answers

- Costs occurring in Years 1 and 2 are discounted with Year 2 costs discounted at a higher rate
- Future costs are given less weight because they "impose" on us less than an equivalent cost arising now



# Inflation التضغم

- Inflation refers to the general upward of the service or good price over time
  - For example the unit cost (price) of drug will be higher in 2018 as compared to 2017
- Adjusting for inflation by using a constant price weight to value all services, most commonly using the year when the trial is stopped
  Such as using 2018 price weight to value all resource uses even if
  - Such as using 2018 price weight to value all resource uses even if the resource uses were collected over a period of years

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# Inflation versus Discounting

- Inflation is concerned with the unit cost (price) whereas discounting (time preference) concerned with when the total cost have been consumed.
  +Tolad Cost
- Adjusting for inflation or not is based on whether we choose a constant or time varying price to value the resource use. The latter occur if we used hospital billing data to cost outpatient care observed over a period of time.
- Adjusting for time preference occur if patients or participants in the trials are followed for more than one year.

	Patient follow-up	discounting belter
Price weight	Less than one year	More than one year
Constant	Do not adjust for inflation; do not discount	Do not adjust for inflation; discount
ne varying	Don't adjust for inflation; do not discount	Adjust for inflation; discount

### Think about this

- If the patients were enrolled in the trial during a 3-year period, but each is followed for one year only. In addition, the investigators collect hospital bills to estimate inpatient cost.
- Do we need to adjust for inflation and discounting?

### Summary

- Discounting is a technique used to reflect the present value of a cost or health benefit that will occur at some future date.
- Future costs are discounted to account for the time value of money, and future health benefits are discounted to account for the delay in satisfaction from these outcomes.
- The effect of discounting is to give future costs and health benefits less weight in an economic analysis.
- Economics call discounting the notion of time preference