

Cross-border Shopping for Innovation: The EPC Model

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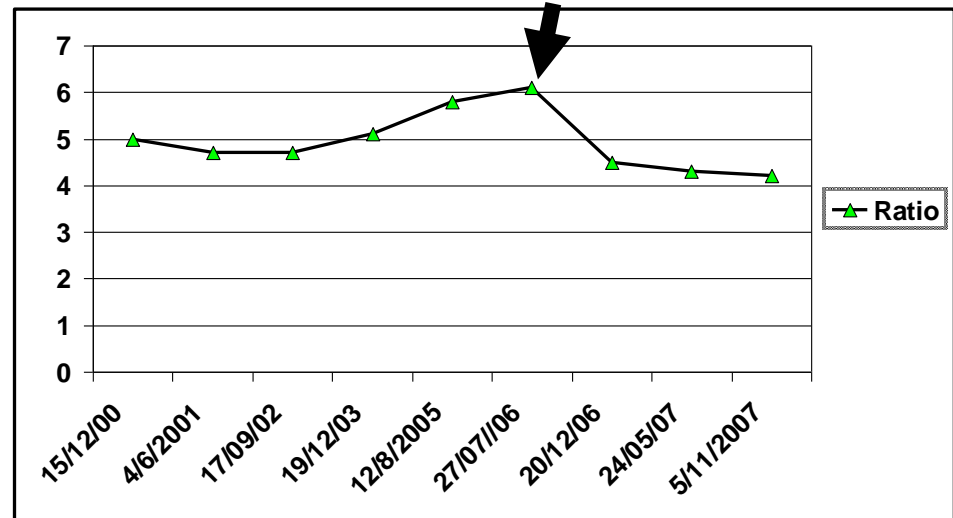
Alberta Research Center for Health Evidence (ARCHE)

December 2, 2008



Total cholesterol/HDL Ratio

Running



Evidence and Decision Making

- Reduced disability and mortality among aging runners (Arch Intern Med 2008;168:1638-1646)

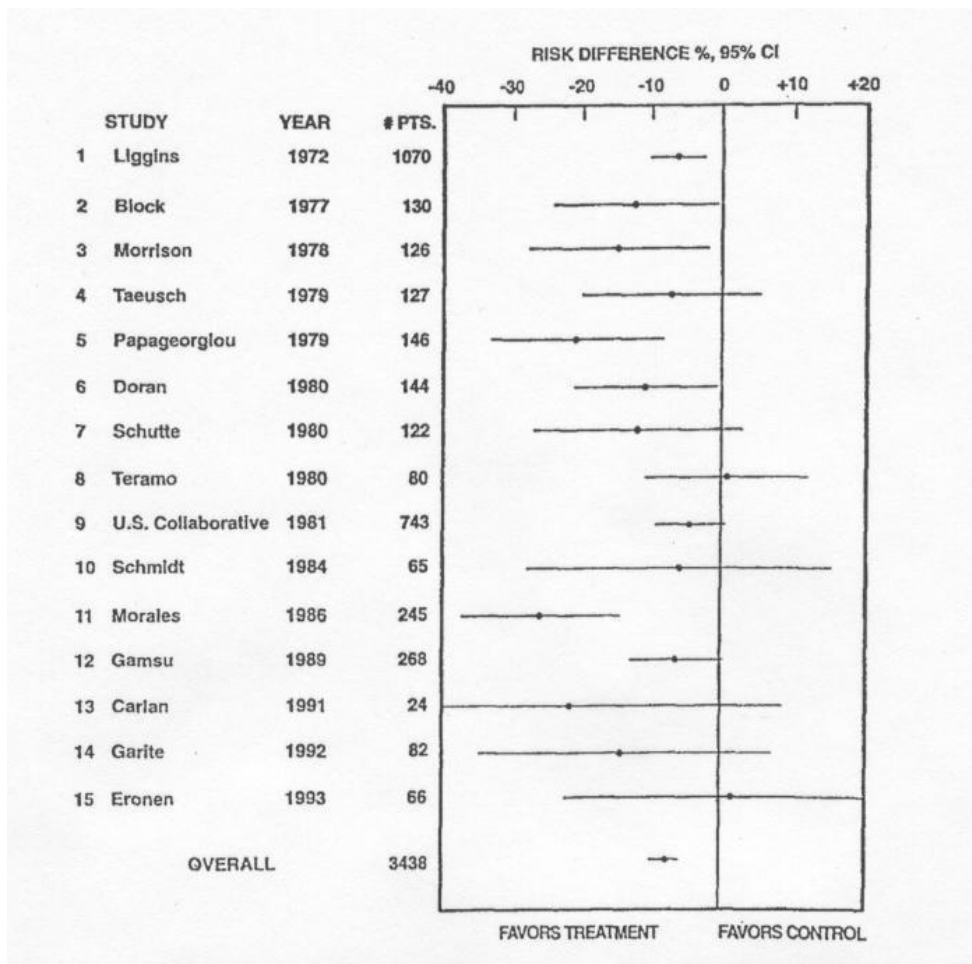
How to take American health care from worst to first

- Billy Beane, Newt Gingrich and John Kerry
- New York Yankees, Detroit Tigers and New York Mets (494 million payroll)
- Tampa Bay Rays, second lowest payroll in baseball (44 million)

New York Times, Oct. 24, 2008



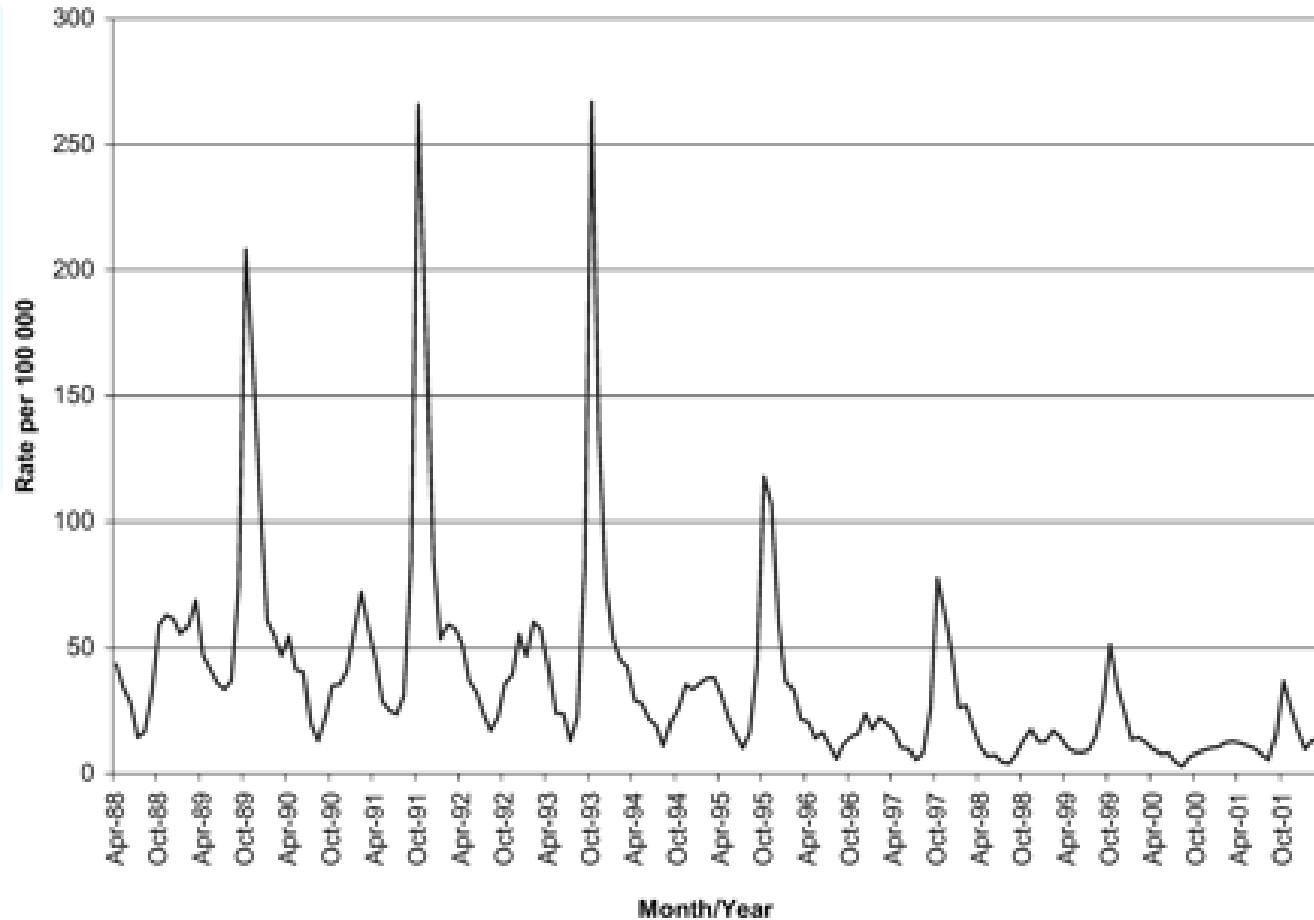
**THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®**



ARCHE
Alberta Research Centre
for Health Evidence



Croup Hospitalizations, Ontario 1988-2001



ARCHE

- Initiated in 2000 by an establishment grant AHFMR
- Cochrane Collaboration
- University of Alberta/Capital Health Evidence-based Practice Center -
→UA/AHS EPC

Scope

- CADTH – Emergency overcrowding
- Health Canada – Volume–outcome relationships in pediatric care
- ACCFCR – Crystal Meth and Behavioral interventions for autism
- CIHR – Evidence synthesis and practice guidelines for bronchiolitis

Center benefits

- Generated \$8 million in funding
- Employs Albertans and generates intellectual capital here in the province

The Evidence-based Practice Center Program

- U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Mandate:
 - review all relevant scientific literature on clinical, behavioral, and organization and financing topics to produce evidence reports and technology assessments;
 - reports are used for informing and developing coverage decisions, quality measures, educational materials and tools, guidelines, and research agendas;
 - conduct research on methodology of systematic reviews.

The Evidence-based Practice Center Program

- 5 year contracts
- 14 centers in North America
- Arms-length, objective entities
- Conflicts of interest declared

The Evidence-based Practice Center Program

- **Formal topic nomination process**
 - External organizations and partners
 - E.g., Medicare/Medicaid Services, Office of Medical Applications of Research, US Preventive Services Task Force, professional organizations
 - Transparent
 - Opportunity for external input, including public comment
 - EPCs involved in refining key questions

University of Alberta Evidence-based Practice Center

- Inception in 2002
- 20 staff with multidisciplinary expertise:
 - Epidemiology, statistics, information sciences, basic and medical sciences
- Collaborators and partners across U of A and beyond

Examples from the U of A EPC

Diagnosis and Management of Occupational Asthma

■ Key questions:

- Optimal diagnostic approach
- Effectiveness of alternative management and therapeutic options

Diagnosis and Management of Occupational Asthma

- Topic nominator:
 - American College of Chest Physicians
- Funding:
 - US\$288,204
- Impact:
 - American College of Chest Physicians
Consensus Statement: Chest. 2008
Sep;134(3 Suppl):1S-41S.

Secondary Prevention Programs for Patients with Coronary Artery Disease

■ Key questions:

- Do secondary prevention programs for patients with CAD improve health outcomes?
- What program-related factors influence effectiveness?

Secondary Prevention Programs for Patients with Coronary Artery Disease

■ Topic nominator:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

■ Funding:

- US\$70,000

■ Impact:

- Report to guide CMS in coverage decisions

Secondary Prevention Programs for Patients with Coronary Artery Disease

■ Impact:

- Jan 2005: meeting of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) determines that cardiac rehabilitation is reasonable and necessary for specific indications.

Positron Emission Tomography for Nine Cancers

■ Key questions:

- 18FDG-PET and 18FDG-PET/CT
 - diagnostic test performance
 - diagnostic thinking impact
 - as part of a management strategy
 - Cost-effectiveness

Positron Emission Tomography for Nine Cancers

■ Topic nominators:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

■ Funding:

- US\$226,590

■ Impact:

- Report used to guide decisions regarding reimbursement for 18FDG-PET scans

Positron Emission Tomography for Nine Cancers

Excerpts from news release (Aug 20, 2008): US panel questions wider use of PET scans in cancer

-Medicare recently commissioned a separate analysis that found the quality of available studies on PET's use in cancer patients was poor to moderate.

-Some panelists said it was hard to reconcile that finding with the industry's conclusion from the registry data.

-"I don't see how you make the leap," said panel member and consumer representative Linda Bergthold "The quality of the data ... was really stunningly poor."

-Medicare is expected to make a draft decision in January before making its final ruling in April.

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Summary

- From evidence to decision-making:
 - Clinical practice guidelines
 - Network analysis
 - Identification of uncertainties
 - Directions for future research
 - Coverage decisions