

# COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF MECHANICAL THROMBECTOMY USING STENT-RETRIEVER AFTER INTRAVENOUS T-PA COMPARED WITH INTRAVENOUS T-PA ALONE IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE ISCHEMIC STROKE DUE TO LARGE VESSEL OCCLUSION IN SPAIN

de Andrés-Nogales F<sup>1</sup>, Álvarez M<sup>2</sup>, de Miquel MÁ<sup>3</sup>, Segura T<sup>4</sup>, Gil A<sup>5</sup>, Cardona P<sup>3</sup>, Casado MÁ<sup>1</sup>, Nogueira RG<sup>6</sup>, Dávalos A<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research Iberia, Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid), Spain, <sup>2</sup>Health Economics & Outcomes Research, Medtronic Ibérica, S.A., Madrid, Spain, <sup>3</sup>Hospital Univeritari de Bellvitge, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain, <sup>4</sup>Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Albacete, Albacete, Spain, <sup>5</sup>Hospital Universitario de Cruces, Barakaldo, Spain, <sup>6</sup>Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA, <sup>7</sup>Hospital Univeritari Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona, Spain.

## OBJECTIVE

To assess the cost-effectiveness of **stent-retriever mechanical thrombectomy after intravenous tissue plasminogen activator (IV t-PA) compared with IV t-PA alone** in acute ischemic stroke patients with confirmed occlusions in the proximal anterior intracranial circulation and absence of large ischemic core lesions in Spain.

## METHODS

- A **Markov state transition model** was developed to estimate health outcomes expressed as life years gained (LYG) and quality adjusted life years (QALY), and costs over **patients' lifetime**.
- It included **7 health states defined by the modified Rankin scale (mRS)** (0, no symptoms; 6, death)
- The model was divided in an **acute phase** (stroke onset-90 days) and a **rest-of-life phase** (90 days-death). Treatment effect occurred in the acute phase (Figure 1).
- **Patients' characteristics and clinical effectiveness** (mRS at 90 days) were obtained from SWIFT PRIME clinical trial<sup>1</sup>.
- **Adverse events rates** were obtained from REVASCAT study<sup>2</sup>.
- **Annual recurrence rates** were applied to the rest-of-life phase: 4.91% (90 days-1 year) and 2.01% (1 year-death)<sup>3</sup>.
- **Utility values** were obtained from the Oxford Vascular Study<sup>4</sup>.
- A **Spanish National Health System perspective** was considered.
- An **annual discount rate of 3%** was applied to costs and health outcomes<sup>5</sup>.
- **Direct costs (€, 2016)** included acute and long-term management, treatment (mechanical thrombectomy, IV t-PA and non-thrombolytic treatment) and adverse event management. Alternative scenarios also considered formal care (nursing/residential care costs) (Table 1).
- **Resource utilization and costs** were obtained from available published data and endorsed by an expert panel<sup>6-10</sup>.
- **Deterministic and probabilistic sensitivity analyses** were performed to examine the robustness of the results.

Figure 1. Markov model structure

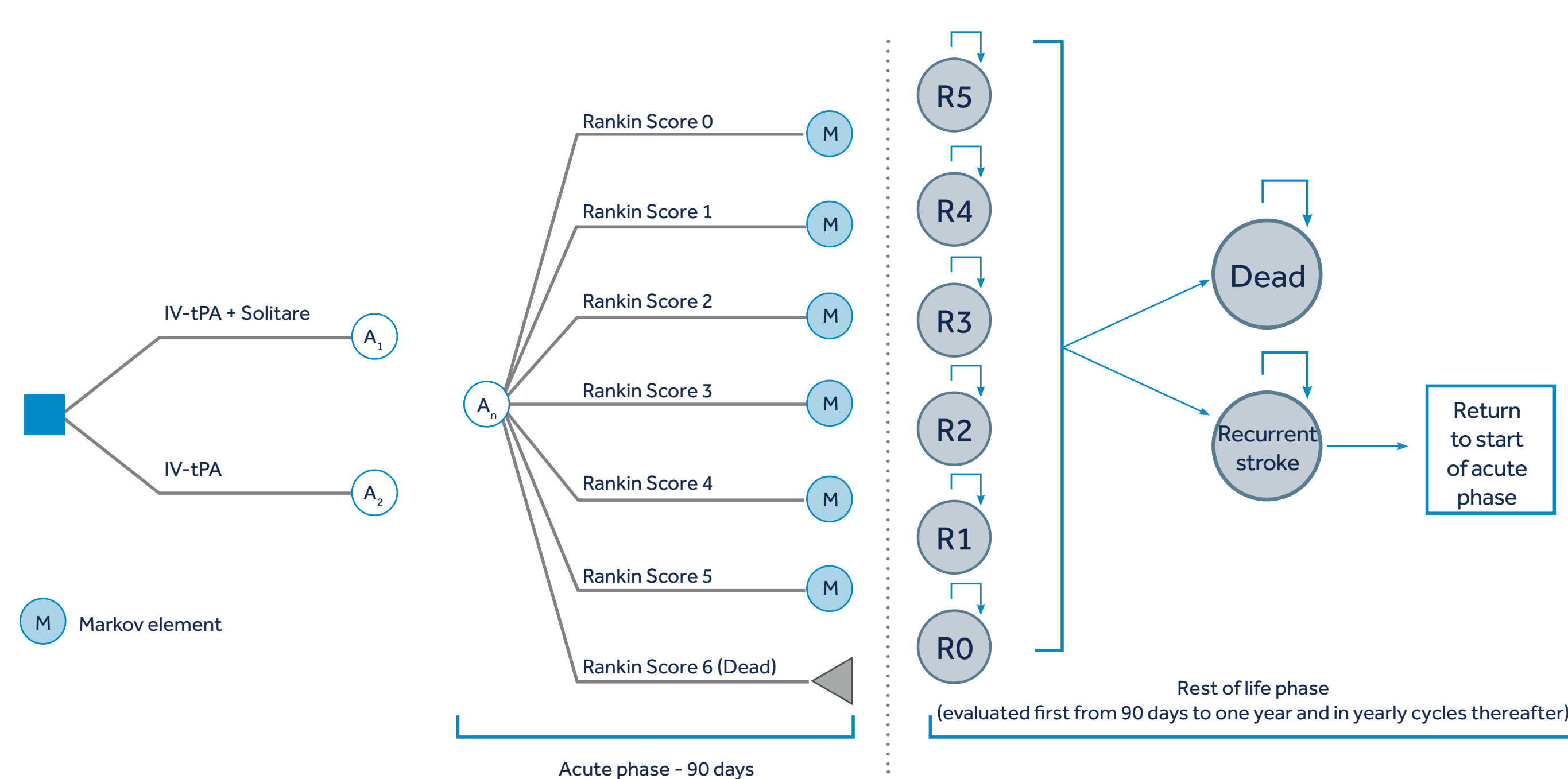


Table 1. Direct costs of acute ischemic stroke

| ACUTE AND LONG-TERM COSTS                          |                               |                              |                                |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | Acute care costs <sup>6</sup> | Long-term costs <sup>6</sup> | Formal care costs <sup>7</sup> |
| mRS 0  | €4,563.00                     | €1,296.00                    | €1,380.06                      |
| mRS 1  | €5,070.00                     | €1,440.00                    | €1,533.40                      |
| mRS 2  | €5,577.00                     | €1,584.00                    | €1,686.74                      |
| mRS 3  | €6,255.90                     | €22,485.60                   | €9,488.60                      |
| mRS 4  | €6,951.00                     | €24,984.00                   | €26,601.30                     |
| mRS 5  | €7,646.10                     | €27,482.40                   | €37,701.40                     |
| mRS 6  | €3,912.75 <sup>8</sup>        | -                            | -                              |
| TREATMENT COSTS <sup>9,10</sup>                    |                               |                              |                                |
| Mechanical Thrombectomy                            |                               |                              | €7,026.17                      |
| IV t-PA thrombolysis                               |                               |                              | €1,029.98                      |
| Non-thrombolytic treatment                         |                               |                              | €624.50                        |
| ADVERSE EVENT MANAGEMENT COSTS <sup>9,10</sup>     |                               |                              |                                |
| Symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage                |                               |                              | €15,500.02                     |
| Malignant cerebral edema requiring hemicraniectomy |                               |                              | €15,971.13                     |

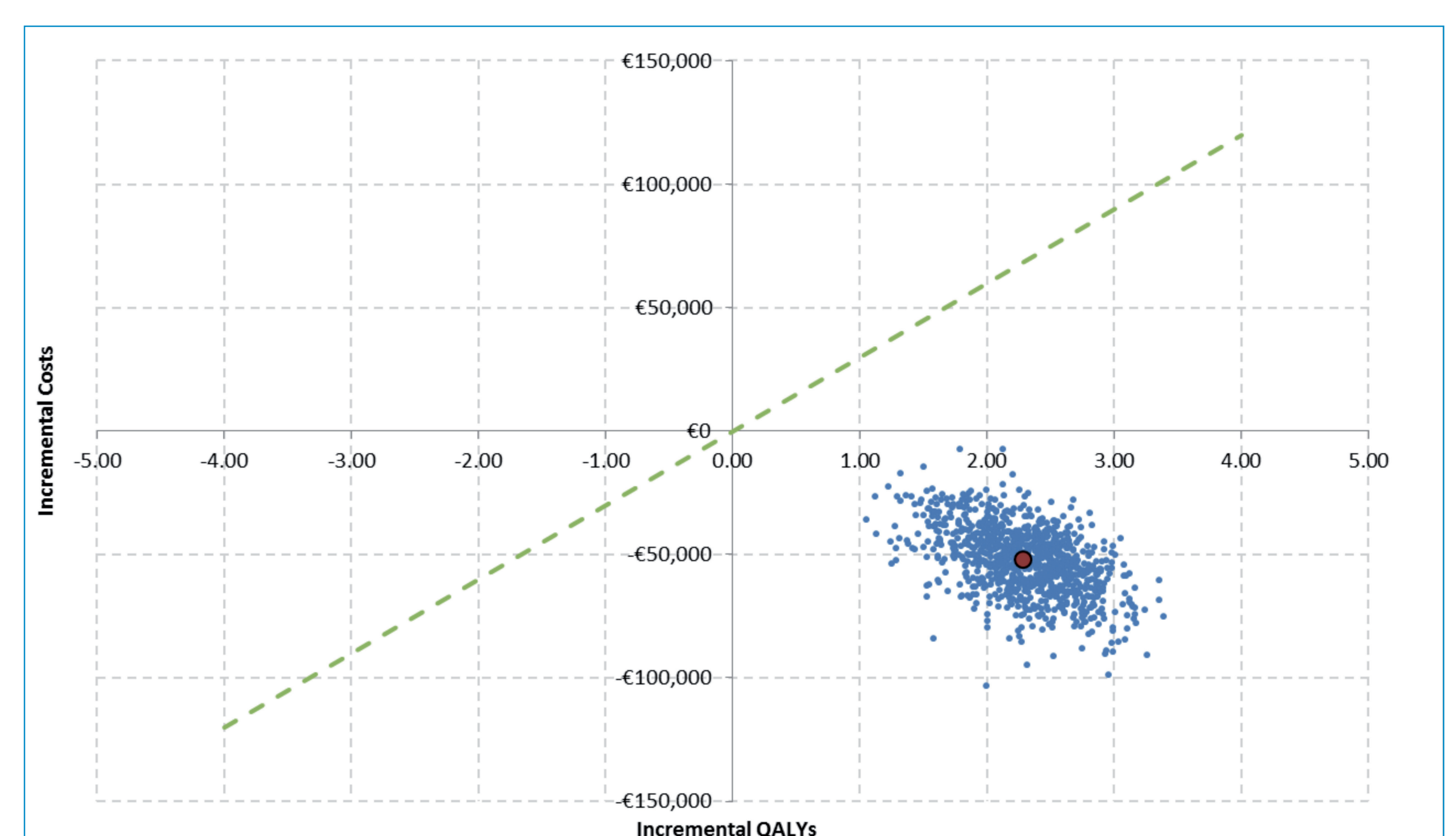
## RESULTS

- Mechanical thrombectomy after IV t-PA resulted in a **more effective and less costly therapy** than IV t-PA alone over patients' lifetime (base case scenario).
- In **alternative scenarios** with time horizons  $\geq 2$  years, the combined therapy was considered dominant versus IV t-PA, whether including or not formal care costs.
- Considering 1-year time horizon, mechanical thrombectomy plus IV t-PA led to an **ICUR of €15,044/QALY** gained versus IV t-PA alone, whilst it resulted in a **dominant alternative** when formal care costs were included.
- Starting age, utility values, discount rate and relative risk of dying were the analysis key drivers (Deterministic Sensitivity Analysis).
- Probabilistic analysis showed **the combined therapy was dominant in 100% of the 1,000 simulations performed** (Figure 2).

Table 2. Cost-effectiveness analysis results

|  | Solitaire + IV t-PA                                   | IV t-PA         | Incremental value |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| COSTS  |   |                 |                   |
| Treatment costs                              | €8,428  | €1,606          | €6,822            |
| Adverse events costs                         | €743.83   | €1,195.46       | -€451.63          |
| Acute management costs                       | €5,630  | €6,083          | -€453             |
| Long term management costs                   | €105,624  | €157,668        | -€52,044          |
| Stroke recurrence costs                      | €3,441  | €1,691          | €1,749            |
| <b>TOTAL COST</b>                            | <b>€123,866</b>                                       | <b>€168,244</b> | <b>-€44,378</b>   |
| HEALTH RESULTS                               |   |                 |                   |
| Total QALYs gained                           | 7.62  | 5.11            | 2.51              |
| LYG  | 11.708  | 10.536          | 1.172             |
| <b>ICUR (Incremental Cost-Utility Ratio)</b> | <b>Dominant</b>                                       |                 |                   |
| <b>Net monetary benefit (NMB)</b>            | <b>€119,744 (threshold €30,000/QALY)<sup>11</sup></b> |                 |                   |

Figure 2. Cost-effectiveness plane (Probabilistic Sensitivity Analysis)



## CONCLUSION

**Stent-retriever thrombectomy after IV t-PA resulted in a dominant alternative (less costly, more effective) versus IV t-PA alone for the treatment of acute ischemic stroke from the Spanish National Health System perspective.**

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