

Luiza R. Grazziotin Lago



Biography

Luiza Grazziotin is a first-year health economics Ph.D. student in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. Luiza earned a M.Sc. in Cardiovascular Sciences and a B.Sc. in Pharmacy from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, located in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Her doctoral research is focused on strengthening oncology drug reimbursement decision-making by explicitly incorporating patient preferences into the process. Luiza developed a foundational expertise in Health Technology Assessment (HTA) during her Master's degree, completing a one-year HTA specialization course concurrently. She was subsequently recruited for an internship at the Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health, a leading

HTA research organization in South America. This internship provided many opportunities for Luiza to learn about health economics and HTA from an international perspective. Luiza also worked as a Research Associate at a hospital-based HTA unit, in which she gained practical experience in health services research by developing, coordinating and conducting HTA projects, systematic reviews and observational studies.

Luiza's research experience has provided her in-depth knowledge of HTA in oncology and to work directly with oncology patients and caregivers. Moreover, her research interests also include examining new HER-2 testing strategies in breast cancer patients and cost-effectiveness analysis in oncology drugs.

Project Summary

Incorporating Colorectal Cancer Patient Preferences into Health Technology Assessment

The high costs of cancer drugs has increased pressure on healthcare decision-makers to make informed choices that reflect the best value when considering drug reimbursement or coverage. While there are many stakeholders in the healthcare system, the patient perspective is central to defining value. However, it is challenging to define how patient preferences can be considered

quantitatively and explicitly in health technology assessment decision-making processes regarding oncology drug reimbursement and coverage. This research proposal will address this issue by developing a framework containing recommendations on how patient preferences could be incorporated into decision-making, what methodology should be used and how much weight should be accorded to patient preferences. My proposed research will design specialized surveys that employ qualitative methods to elicit patient preferences for different colorectal cancer treatments. These results will be used to design a patient based-value framework for health technology assessment of oncology drugs. The analysis will reveal how patient preferences vary according to patient demographics, stage of disease, treatment experience and quality of life. Although colorectal cancer patient preferences and treatments will be used as the case example to develop and test the methods, once established, the aim is that the framework could be generalized to other cancer types. This project aligns with the need to improve and enhance patient engagement, to incorporate patient preferences and values in a clear, impactful manner in drug reimbursement decisions in Canada.