

# New Approach in Health Technology Assessment in Croatian Healthcare System



Petar Miličić, M.Sc.  
CLINICAL HOSPITAL CENTER ZAGREB  
Department of Nuclear Medicine  
and Radiation Protection  
ZAGREB, CROATIA

# Healthcare System in Croatia



Croatian health system has a significant number of hospital capacities, arranged throughout the whole country

Those hospitals spend about 50% of all money for health care. About 90% of those hospitals are public (local or states).

# Healthcare System in Croatia

## Croatian health system



**2 Clinical Hospital Centers**

**5 Clinical hospitals**

**7 Clinics**

**23 General hospitals**

**28 Special hospitals**

# Healthcare System in Croatia



The state of hospital capacity is inherited from previous decades, but many changes have happened during last years. Most of the hospitals are situated in the capital city, Zagreb.

There are also several local hospitals in smaller cities.

This situation increases the efficiency of the healthcare system.

During the war period (1991 -1995.) many hospitals (25%) were destroyed or heavily damaged.

# Healthcare System in Croatia



- HZZO (Croatian Health Insurance Agency) cover all Croatian citizens and health care is regulated by law.
- There are also additional insurance provide by same Croatian Health Insurance Agency, which cover all costs of diagnostic tests and treatment.

# Healthcare System in Croatia

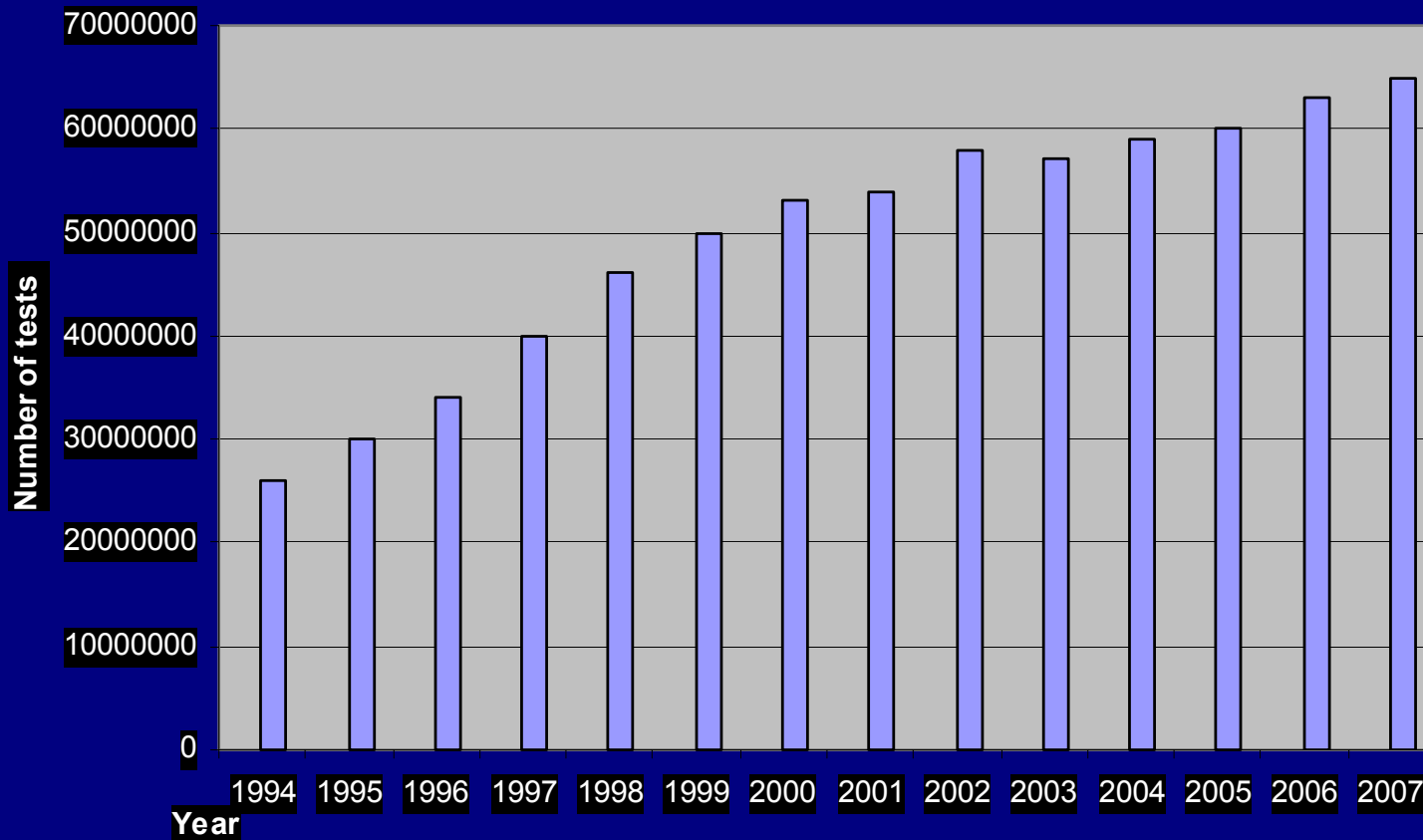


- there are about 400 beds per 100 000 inhabitants
  - the number of beds is regulated by a contract between hospitals and **HZZO (Croatian Health Insurance Agency)**
  - uneven distribution of some hospital specialty

# Healthcare System in Croatia



**Number of diagnostic tests in Croatia**



Croatia has 4 400 000 inhabitants

# Reform of Croatian Healthcare system



Our HTA project consists of few steps:  
In proposed reform of Croatian health care system anticipate introduce **capacity planning**, as a way to harmonize evaluation of hospital capacity and to cover even regional distribution of health care.

Hospitals in Croatia are public and non-profit organization, so it is not desirable to exist any competition between hospitals.

# Reform of Croatian Healthcare system

The important step in planning hospital capacity is to **classify hospitals** and to make plans of numbers and quality of hospital capacity. Categorization of hospitals has to be a part of a plan of hospital capacity, but also with regard to real situation.

**Categorization** will give a base for investigation of hospital capacity in future, and also for change assignment of present capacity and for fusion several hospitals in one administrative unit.

# Health Technology Assessment in Croatian Health System



Ministry of Health has no capability to develop and introduce new technology, neither to reduce costs of health care nor to increase health care efficiency.

This situation needs resources and assistance.

Since HTA is given support by Ministry of Health, it is a good moment to establish an **institution at the government level** to improve the complete healthcare system.

This institution has to establish a national agency to help policy makers to improve the Croatian healthcare system.

# Health Technology Assessment in Croatian Health System



## We identified next few steps for develop HTA idea in Croatia:

- Continue to raise awareness about increase interest in HTA program
- Initiate HTA activity in all health care fields
- Develop a system to analyze needs for health technology and inform decisions makers about future investments
- Initiate training of a core group in research methods in HTA and EBM
- Join international HTA networks
- Establish an connections with other Central and Eastern European and develop common activities and collaboration
- Establish an **agency** to keep a registry of medical technologies in the Croatia

# Further activity in Croatia

- Our projects help policy makers increase efficiency in regard to allocation of coverage, funding, reimbursement, regulation, patient education and planning.
- It is necessary to establish an institution at the government level to improve the complete healthcare system.
- This institution has to establish a national agency to help policy makers to improve Croatian healthcare system.

# Further activity in Croatia

In Croatia has no any know-how institution in this filed, so they are good reasons to establish on one place **HTA institution** to collect and coordinate health care science and implement in healthcare system.

**The Ministry of Health** started to establish an **agency** (with a new law) to keep a registry of medical technologies in the Croatia and approve of technology by assuring that they conform to international standards of good manufacturing practice, a meet certain qualifications of safety and efficacy.

# Further activity in Croatia

Agency based on a new law has to assist the Ministry of Health in the appraisal of proposals for investments in medical technology and to assist the medical professions and the hospital managers with evidence based information's about different health technology.

It is necessary to assembling redundant documentation and a bank of information's about HTA studies, international sources of information and continuous scanning numbers of international sources.

**Thank you.**