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| Topics: **Stillbirth** |
| Type: **Oral** |
| **Cost-effectiveness analysis of diagnostic tests in stillbirth assessment for identifying cause of fetal death.** |
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| **Introduction** The purpose of this study was to determine the cost-effectiveness of diagnostic tests in stillbirth assessment and to propose a cost-effective strategy for identifying cause of fetal death.  **Material and Methods** We used a validated database with diagnostic test results of comprehensive stillbirth assessments from 1025 couples who had suffered a fetal death after ≥ 20 weeks of gestation. In a step-by-step decision analysis, different strategies for diagnostic testing in stillbirth assessment were analyzed. Effectiveness of each strategy was defined by the number of correctly identified causes of fetal death using the original cause of fetal death classified by a multidisciplinary panel as reference. Health care costs of different strategies were calculated using Dutch standardized prices of diagnostic tests.  **Results** Details of maternal history, obstetric complications and clinical observations combined with placental examination, cytogenetic analysis and autopsy is the most effective strategy in stillbirth assessment for identifying cause of fetal death. Using this strategy, cause of fetal death can be identified in 1019 cases (99.4%) compared to comprehensive stillbirth assessment, which gives a cost-saving of € 2.003,36 per patient.  **Conclusions** A stillbirth assessment with a combination of 3 diagnostic tests is a cost-effective strategy compared to a more conditional comprehensive stillbirth assessment. |
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