

## Cost-Effectiveness of Herpes Zoster Vaccination

Dear editor, adding to the previous report on “Cost-Effectiveness of Varicella Vaccination,<sup>[1]</sup>” we hereby would like to further discuss on the cost-effectiveness of herpes zoster vaccination in our setting, Indochina. Clinically, herpes zoster results from reactivation of the latent varicella-zoster virus. Indeed, varicella is common in our setting and herpes zoster is similarly common. The vaccines for varicella and herpes zoster are presently available for clinical use.<sup>[2,3]</sup> The herpes zoster vaccine is proposed as a useful vaccine among the elderly.<sup>[3]</sup> Similar to the varicella vaccine, the cost-effectiveness of herpes zoster vaccination is an important consideration before the implementation of this primary prevention into the national immunization policies. Regarding herpes zoster vaccine in our setting, the problem of vaccine cost results in noncost-effectiveness, which is similar to the case of the varicella vaccine.<sup>[4]</sup> The first evaluation for cost-effectiveness of herpes zoster vaccination in 2015 in our setting resulted in the recommendation for necessary to minimizing vaccine cost to increase the cost-effectiveness.<sup>[4]</sup> Here, the authors perform a reassessment at a 5-year period after the first analysis to assess the present situation regarding cost-effectiveness of herpes zoster vaccination in our setting. On the basis of the present situation (2019), the epidemiology of herpes zoster still remained the same as the previous situation but there is a change in vaccine cost. The cost of the herpes vaccine decreases for 3.95 USD (from 161.03 to 156.08 USD). Considering the utility of the vaccine, the value is equal to 0.0035 quality-adjusted life-year (QALY).<sup>[4]</sup> On the basis of the current situation, the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for herpes zoster vaccination comparing with no vaccination is hereby equal to 39,557.72 USD per QALY. This value is considered more cost-effective than the previous situation in 2015 (40,972 USD per QALY.<sup>[4]</sup>) This can confirm that the public health attempt to minimizing the cost of the vaccine can result in increased cost-effectiveness and it can help increased feasibility to increase the herpes zoster vaccination into the national immunization program.

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### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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