INTRODUCTION

Since 2004, the Brazilian government has been implementing some actions, such as the National Policy of Health Technologies Management, to develop and disseminate Health Technology Assessment (HTA) within the country.1 The Commission for Technologies Incorporation (CITCE – later renamed CONITEC) was established in 2004 to define priority criteria and methodology for HTA studies and also provide technical information to help in decision-making processes.1

One of the key momentum was the creation of the Brazilian network for Health Technology Assessment (REBRATS) and the subsequent release of methodological guidelines. Since then, the number of publications in this field has been growing.1

Bibliometrics is a quantitative statistical technique that comprehends a series of methods aimed to evaluate and measure production and dissemination of knowledge in one particular field of science.2,3

This technique has become very popular in recent years due to its usefulness in tracking the development of scientifc results and because it provides data about research worldwide or in a specific country. Furthermore, bibliometrics is very valuable in the evaluation of health research.4

The aim of this study was to perform a quantitative assessment on scientific production about Brazil that was presented at ISPOR Meetings.

METHODOLOGY

A bibliographic research was conducted in the ISPOR Scientific Presentations Database using the country name (Brazil) as search term from 1998 to 2014.5

Since the database does not allow for a structured search our objective was to include all studies with some topic or subtopic related to the Brazilian perspective, we listed a broad keyword.

All the abstracts were reviewed independently by two researchers.

The key data taken into consideration were: meeting, year, study title, disease, topic and subtopic and sponsorship.

Due to the large list of diseases, as well as the various ways to classify the same disease, this classification was extracted from the titles and abstracts described by two researchers.

Finally, abstracts were defined as sponsored by pharmaceutical industry if one of the authors stated an affiliation with a pharma company.

RESULT

Our search retrieved 756 abstracts about Brazil presented at 44 ISPOR Meetings.

The largest number of publications (165 abstracts) was detected in 2013, when the International Meeting, the European Congress and also the Latin America Congress (in Argentina) were held.

As of 2013, 4.6% of all abstracts presented were related in some form to Brazil.

TRENDS OF RESEARCH RELATED TO BRAZIL PUBLISHED AT ISPOR MEETINGS: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS FROM 1998 TO 2014

Nishikawa A1, Minowa E1, Piedadá E2, Julian G3, Barbosa A1

1Kantar Health, São Paulo, Brazil

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- The Commission for Technologies Incorporation (CITCE – later renamed CONITEC) was established in 2004 to define priority criteria and methodology for HTA studies and also provide technical information to help in decision-making processes.1
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DISCUSSION

- We found that cancer and mental diseases are the main focuses of studies, but less attention to the area at a National level.
- The process of health technology evaluation is still relatively new and evolving in our country. During the last years, Health economic analyses started to play a fundamental role in the technology incorporation processes in Brazil.
- Since 2007, the number of posters related to Brazil and presented at ISPOR Meetings has been growing significantly although the participation is considerably limited in comparison to the total of abstracts presented per year.
- Some abstracts do not mention information on sponsorship, so the final number presented might be underestimated.

LIMITATION

- The analysis of disease or topic of presentations showed that the most studied subject was cancer (18.6%), followed by mental and neurologic disorders (9.9%) and cardiovascular illnesses (5.7%).
- Abstracts on research methodological, healthcare practice analysis, as well as conceptual papers were classified as ‘no specific disease’ or ‘other’ (see Table 1).

CONCLUSION

- Bibliometric analysis demonstrated that abstracts about Brazil have been increasingly presented at ISPOR Meetings.
- The main reflex of National Regulatory Organs’ policies in recent years but it also highlights the importance of health technology and economic assessments in the decision-making process.
- The results demonstrate the potential growth for publications in this area, which would contribute immensely to delineate with greater precision the health economics of Brazil.

REFERENCES

1. Nishikawa A, Minowa E, Piedadá E, Julian G, Barbosa A. Bibliometric analysis demonstrated that abstracts about Brazil have been increasingly presented at ISPOR Meetings. In: Presented at ISPOR 17th Annual European Congress (2014); 2014. 17th ISPOR Conference. Paris, France. 2. The process of health technology evaluation is still relatively new and evolving in our country. During the last years, Health economic analyses started to play a fundamental role in the technology incorporation processes in Brazil. 3. Since 2007, the number of posters related to Brazil and presented at ISPOR Meetings has been growing significantly although the participation is considerably limited in comparison to the total of abstracts presented per year. 4. We found that cancer and mental diseases are the main focuses of studies, but less attention to the area at a National level. 5. Some abstracts do not mention information on sponsorship, so the final number presented might be underestimated.