

Neuromodulation in context of developing country

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Strong evidence has been showing that some high cost neuromodulatory technologies such as spinal cord stimulation not only relieve pain, but also improve function and quality of life in many painful and non-painful conditions. As such, the term high-cost is not equivalent to expensive, if the treatment is worthwhile in adding value back to patients' lives and society.

The obstacles to using neuromodulation in developing countries include lack of knowledge about this technology among patients and the medical community, lack of cost-utility studies in the context of developing countries, and lower willingness to pay, compared to developed countries. The further education of patients and medical professionals, more cost-utility research, and raising the priority of pain management in health policy will enhance the accessibility of this high cost technology to patients.

Nevertheless, neuromodulation includes not only high technology/high cost equipments, but also low-cost modalities such as TENs stimulation, nerve block and neuroablation. These simple treatments together with medical knowledge can also deliver effective neuromodulatory treatment to appropriate patients in limited resource environments.