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JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Section C: Age Weighting, Part 2— Example of Age Weighting

Adnan A. Hyder, MD, PhD, MPH
Johns Hopkins University

Hypothetical Example

- Trade-off between interventions

Case Study (A. Tsuchiya, 1999)

- Two patients: 60 and 30 years old
- Older will gain 10 years from treatment
- Benefit to younger will vary
- Only one can be treated
- Both will die without treatment
- All other factors are the same in each case
- ... Which one will be chosen?

A Test for Ageism

A. Who will you treat—younger or older?

Case	Present age of patients	If younger is treated		If older is treated	
		Expected gains (years)	Expected age at death	Expected gains (years)	Expected age at death
A	60, 30	0, 10	60, 40	10, 0	70, 30

A Test for Ageism

B. Who will you treat?

Case	Present age of patients	If younger is treated		If older is treated	
		Expected gains (years)	Expected age at death	Expected gains (years)	Expected age at death
A	60, 30	0, 10	60, 40	10, 0	70, 30
B	60, 30	0, 5	60, 35	10, 0	70, 30

A Test for Ageism

C. Who will you treat now?

Case	Present age of patients	If younger is treated		If older is treated	
		Expected gains (years)	Expected age at death	Expected gains (years)	Expected age at death
A	60, 30	0, 10	60, 40	10, 0	70, 30
B	60, 30	0, 5	60, 35	10, 0	70, 30
C	60, 30	0, 30	60, 60	10, 0	70, 30

Conclusions?

- People value health benefits *differently* depending on the age of the beneficiary
- This *preference* is shared by many people
- There is limited *empirical* information on this phenomenon
- What is available is not consistent and does not provide *consensus* ...
- ... Should we age weight or not?