

Introduction

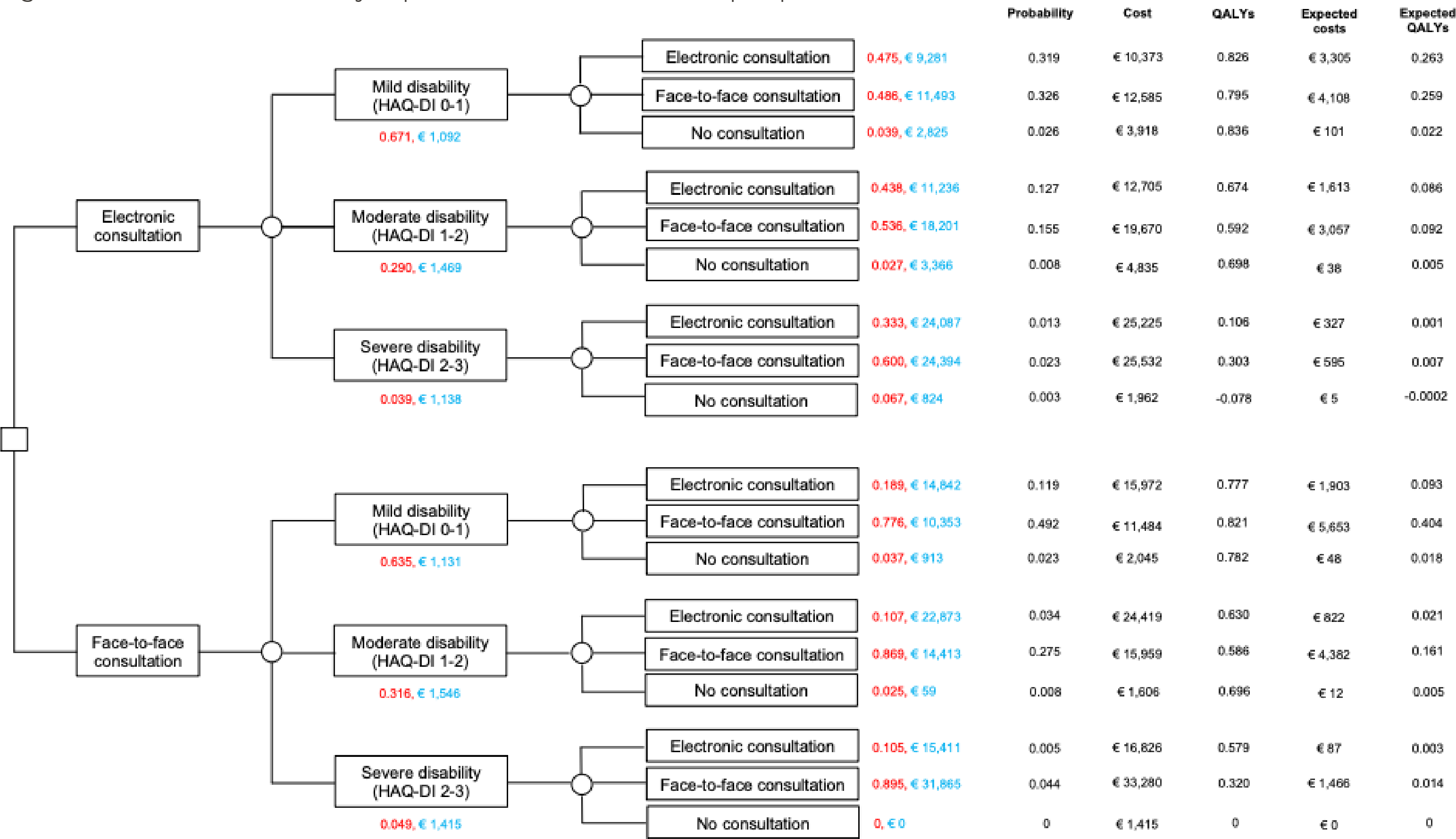
- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients: disease activity measured regularly.
- Adoption of telemedicine in healthcare systems has accelerated quickly
- No evidence on the cost-effectiveness of electronic consultations
- Aim: estimate the cost-effectiveness of electronic consultations compared to face-to-face consultations

Methods

- Decision tree analysis: time horizon of 1 year
- Societal perspective and healthcare perspective
- Costs and effects per patient: real-world data
- Cost-effectiveness: incremental cost per quality adjusted life year (QALY) gained
- Sensitivity analyses: robustness of the base-case results to uncertainty

Results

Figure 1. Results base-case analysis performed from the societal perspective



Note. red, probabilities; blue, costs; QALY, quality-adjusted life year

Conclusion

Electronic consultations in patients with RA are associated with lower costs and higher QALYs compared to face-to-face consultations. This suggests that electronic consultations in patients with RA are cost-effective compared to face-to-face consultations.

Discussion

- Informal care costs should be integrated
- Time between filling out PROMs and consultation date >6 months in part of the study sample
- Randomisation of patients that had both types of consultations in 2020 in either the electronic consultation group or the face-to-face consultation group could have impacted the results