

Technology Assessment in Europe and the UK

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Health Technologies

Encompass

- Pharmaceuticals

• Services

• Procedures

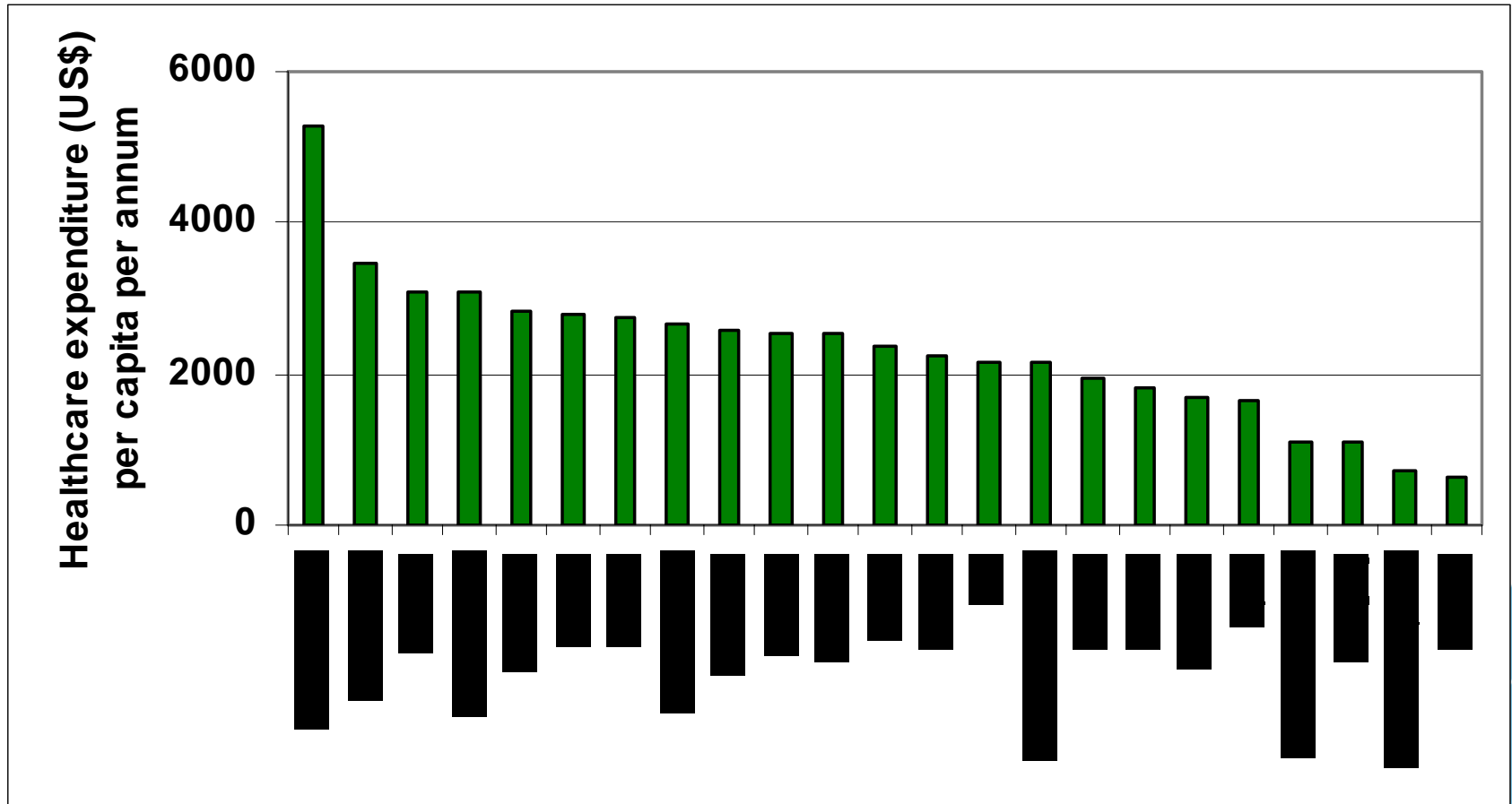
- Diagnostic methods

- Health promotion techniques

Clinical effectiveness

Economic evaluation

Healthcare expenditure: US and Europe (2001)



Economic evaluation

1. Cost effectiveness analysis:

- Not budgetary impact
- Not affordability

2. Perspective:

- Clinical = National Health Service
- Public health = Publicly available funds

Cost effectiveness

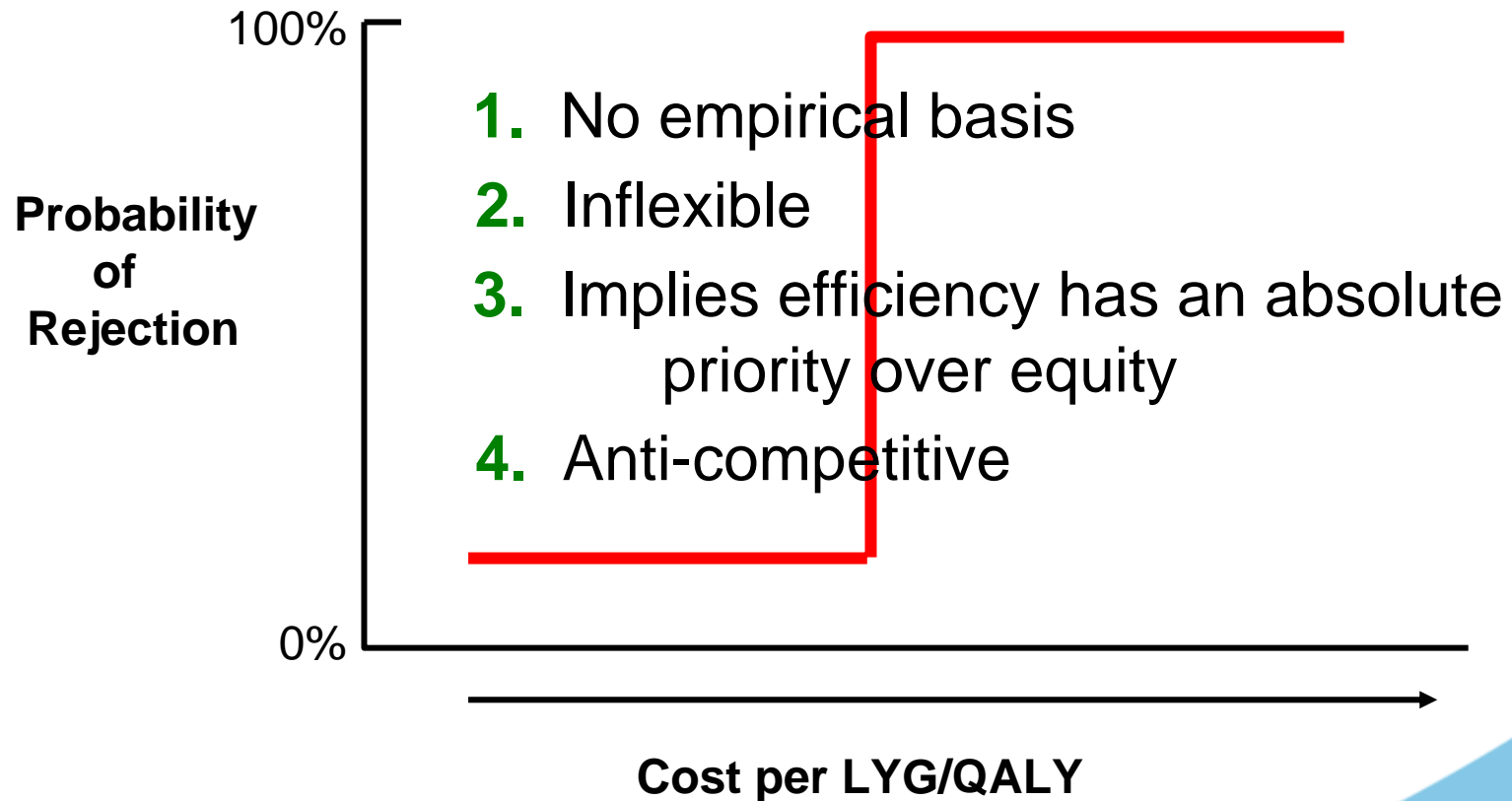
Approaches:

Cost minimisation

Incremental cost effectiveness (ratio)

- Natural units
- Life years gained
- Quality adjusted life years

Cost Ineffectiveness

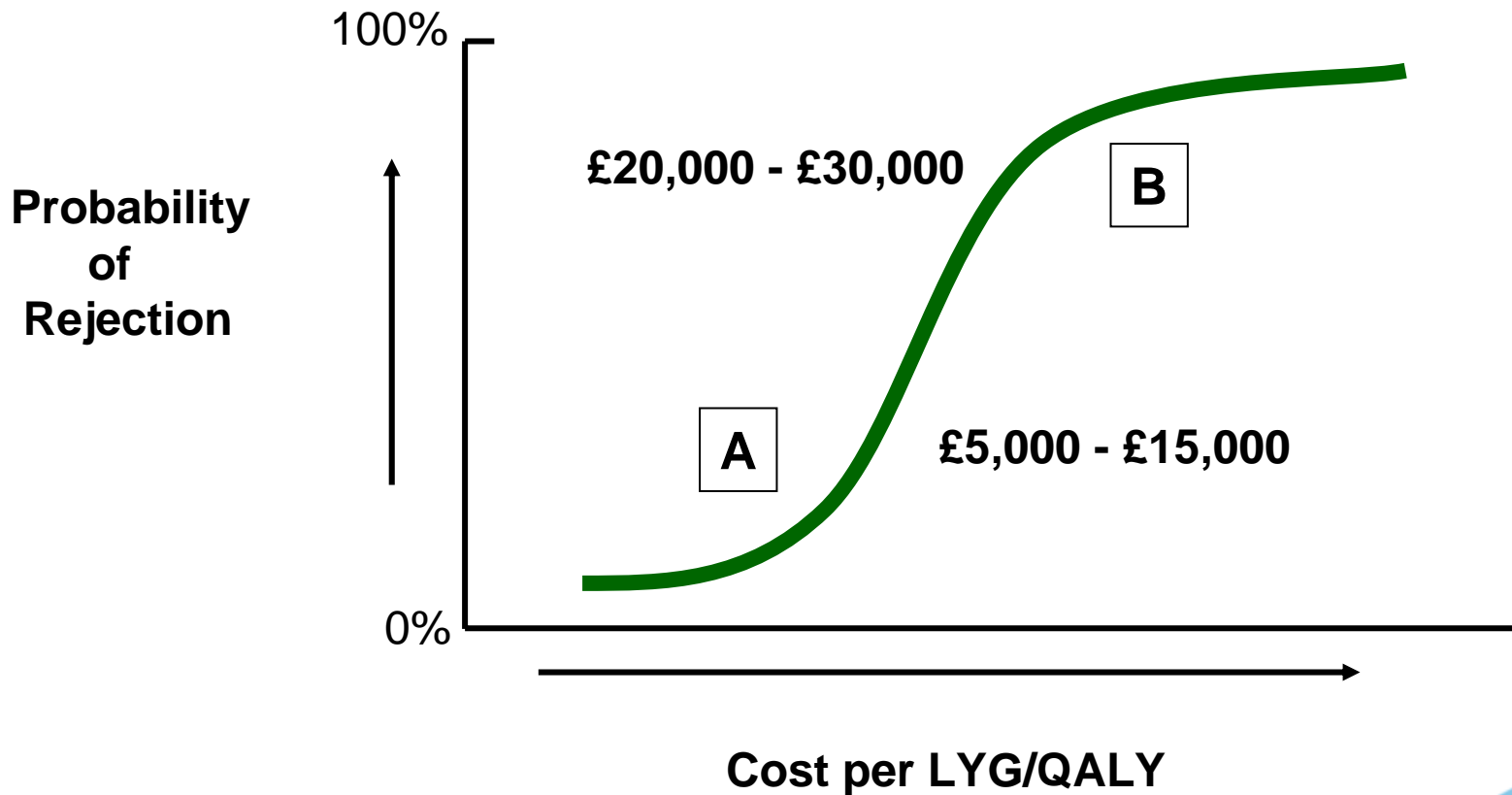


Case-by-case approach

Based on:

- degree of uncertainty of the ICER
- innovative nature of the technology
- wider societal interests
- reference to previous appraisals
- special features of the condition (eg prognosis, equity issues etc)

Cost Ineffectiveness



Value of preventing a statistical fatality?

VpF = Willingness-to-pay = £1,170,000

plus

Gross output = £430,000

less

Consumption = £349,000

plus

Medical and ambulance costs = £1000

Total = £1,250,000 (per life saved)

= £31,250 (per life year gained)

Special considerations

Social value judgement

- Society not science
- Preferences of people not scientists
- Ethical dilemmas

Citizens Council

The Citizen's Council



No shrinking violets...



Special considerations

Explicit:

- Age
- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- Dependents
- Employment status
- Social status
- Individual choice
- Self-inflicted conditions

Uncertain:

- Rule of rescue
- Innovation
- Inequalities
- QALY gains

In summary

1. European – and especially UK – health technology assessments increasingly incorporate clinical *and* cost effectiveness
2. Assessments of cost effectiveness are becoming increasingly importance in prioritising healthcare measures
 - Treatment
 - Immunisation
 - Screening
 - Public health more widely
3. But it is still scientifically (always) and politically (sometimes) challenging!