

# Potential Budgetary Impact of Large Scale Screening of Small Fiber Neuropathy in the Follow-Up of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes in France

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## Abstract

**Aims:** The burden of diabetes-related complications is important and increasing in France. Early screening of microvascular complications could avoid the occurrence of more severe consequences. An economic model using a 5-year time horizon was developed to estimate the potential impact in France of large screening of diabetic autonomic neuropathy using Sudoscan, a quick, non-invasive and quantitative method developed for screening of small fiber neuropathy.

**Methods:** A disease progression model was first developed to describe the long-term evolution of patients with type 2 diabetes regarding microvascular complications over successive time periods and patients were classified in 4 groups according to the severity. Complication-related costs were then calculated for a cohort of patients treated according to the current pattern of care and compared with the costs incurred by the same cohort assuming the introduction and widespread use of a large screening of small fiber neuropathy using the Sudoscan method. Comparison of treatment costs between the two situations was used to evaluate the potential budget impact of such a prevention policy in France.

**Results:** According to this general screening of early complications more than 25,000 patients could avoid more severe complications. The gross benefit of such a new prevention strategy would be around € 280 million at 5<sup>th</sup> year. After 5 years of follow-up, the cumulated gross benefit would be € 837 million and in the worst case scenario (decrease of 20% for each uncertain parameter, namely the distribution of patients among severity groups, the death rates in each severity group, and the distribution of newly diagnosed patients in each severity group) gross benefit would remain at more than € 50 million for the first year and more than € 255 million at the 5th year (using 6% as global efficacy of screening method as basal value).

**Conclusion:** Large screening of small fiber neuropathy could avoid more severe peripheral neuropathy and consequently decrease the burden related to such complications for a limited investment.

**Keywords:** Microvascular complications; Diabetic autonomic neuropathy; Sudomotor function; Prevention program

## Introduction

Prevalence of treated and untreated type 2 diabetes in France was more than 4% in 2008 and continues to increase [1]. Hyperglycemia, as other metabolic dysfunction, directly damages smaller blood vessels resulting in microvascular complications including nephropathy, retinopathy and neuropathy [2]. Thus diabetes mellitus is the leading cause of blindness, end-stage renal disease and non-traumatic limb amputations [3-5]. The total annual cost of diabetes in France was estimated to be more than € 17 billion in 2010 with an annual increase of more than 3% including € 4.2 billion dedicated to complications [1]. The end organ damage resulting from microvascular complications dramatically increases the cost of diabetes [6,7].

Microvascular complications including retinopathy, nephropathy and peripheral neuropathy develop very early in the diabetes process and have been widely documented in patients with impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) [8,9].

Tight glycemic control assessed via fasting glucose or HbA<sub>1c</sub> has been shown to prevent microvascular complications in type 1; in type 2 diabetes, management of hyperglycemia as well as other metabolic risk factors is helpful to prevent microvascular complications including neuropathy [10].

Lifestyle improvement has been shown to reverse small fiber

neuropathy [11]. It has been largely demonstrated for retinopathy and nephropathy that early screening of microvascular complications with adapted treatment may delay the appearance of severe complications [12]. ACE inhibitors have been shown to reduce the occurrence of nephropathy, and fibrates to reduce retinopathy in the FIELD study [13,14]. Fibrates can also reduce amputations but their effect on small fiber neuropathy has not been fully explored due to a lack of simple tools to evaluate them [15].

Early detection of retinopathy and nephropathy can be easily done in usual practice by retinography and estimation of glomerular filtration rate with a precise gradation of early stages. Peripheral neuropathy assessment is based on measures of large fiber neuropathy, i.e. advanced neuropathy, due to the lack of a simple, quick, objective,

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quantitative and sensitive test to assess early nerve damage. This situation has limited early detection of peripheral neuropathy and prevention of more severe complications.

Sweat glands are innervated by autonomic small C-fibers and measurement of sudomotor function has been proposed for screening of small fiber neuropathy [16]. Sudoscan was developed by a French company as a quick, non-invasive, objective and quantitative assessment of peripheral and autonomic small fiber neuropathy based on dynamic assessment of sudomotor function. Its performance has been evaluated through many clinical studies [17, 18].

The aim of this economic study was to explore the potential budget impact of large scale screening of small fiber neuropathy in patients with type 2 diabetes using Sudoscan in France.

### Methods

A disease progression model was first developed to describe the long-term evolution of patients with type 2 diabetes regarding microvascular complications over successive time periods. Complication-related costs were then calculated for a cohort of patients treated according to the current pattern of care and compared with the costs incurred by the same cohort assuming the introduction and widespread use of a large screening of small fiber neuropathy using the Sudoscan method (see details in appendix). Comparison of treatment costs between the two situations was used to evaluate the potential budget impact of such a prevention policy in France.

### Model structure and eligible population

Nephropathy is a relatively well explored microvascular complication with many detailed published data. As there is a well described progression with proteinuria and microalbuminuria, it was used to build the disease progression model from the very early stages of patients with type 2 diabetes. French data issued from Entred study were used in the model to derive patient distribution among severity groups and disease progression rates. The cycle time chosen was 1 year, which corresponds to epidemiological data on annual incidence and to

the estimated mean time for a patient to move from one health state to the other from year  $y$  to year  $y+1$ .

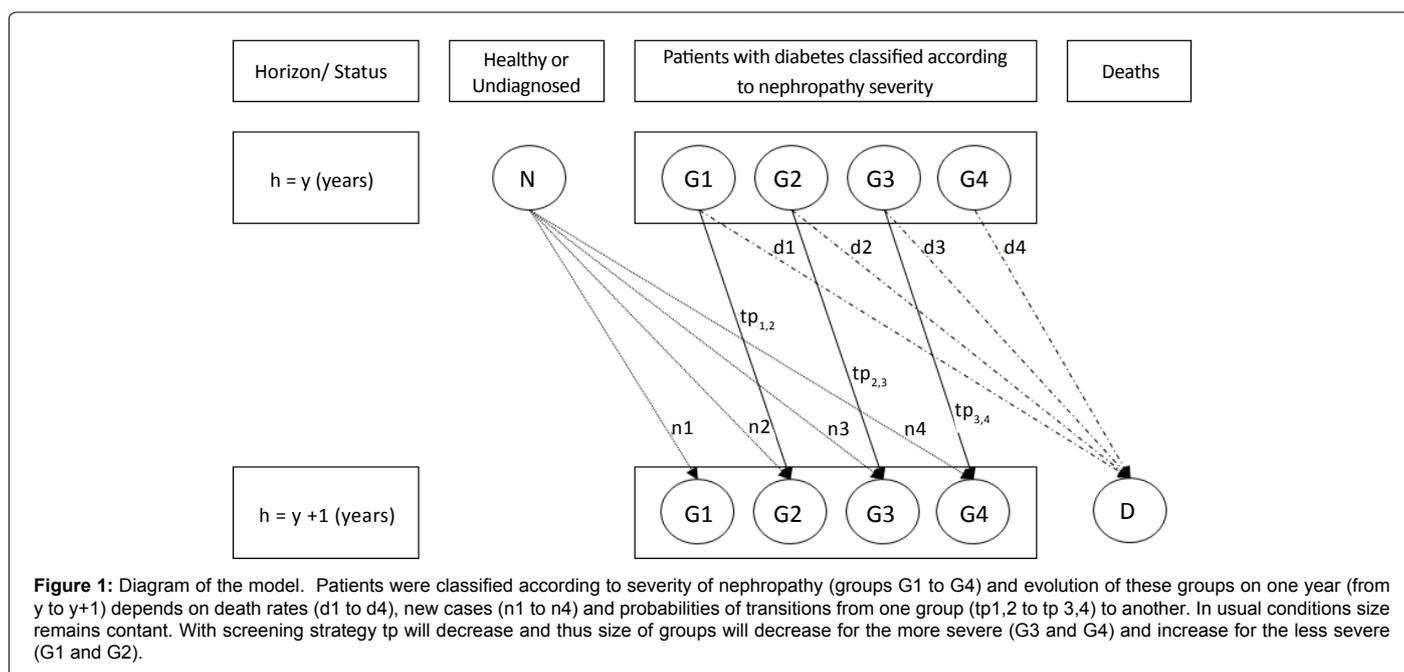
Severity of nephropathy was based on Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR). The model (Figure 1) considers that patients may be classified in 4 groups according to the severity of nephropathy, thus defining four health states apart from death [19,20]:

- G1, group 1: no nephropathy without any treatment for diabetes,
- G2, group 2: no nephropathy but with at least one treatment for diabetes (eGFR > 90 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> for both groups),
- G3, group 3: mild nephropathy (eGFR between 60 and 89 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)
- G4, group 4: severe nephropathy (eGFR < 60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>).

Data regarding this distribution were available from literature for 85% of diabetic patients [6,7]. The 15% remaining patients were allocated proportionally in the 4 groups. Distribution of total new cases expressed as percentages ( $N$  distributed in  $n_i$ ) in each group ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) was defined according to number of treatments received supposing that number of treatments received by a diabetic patient recently diagnosed increases with severity of his disease. Percentage of deaths in each group ( $D$  distributed in  $d_i$ ) was calculated from data on distribution of total deaths according to severity [21,22]. All data sources used for the model are displayed in Table 1 while detailed calculations are presented in the appendix.

As a first step, the model was calibrated in order to mimic the observed disease progression between 2001 and 2007 according to published data from Entred study i.e. 1.7 million patients in 2001 and 2.4 million in 2007 [6]. The model was then validated by comparing projected results issued from this annual progression model to the actual situation of French patients in 2010 [19].

The model was then run using a 5-year time horizon, with a new patient cohort entering the model each year from 2014 until 2018.



| Description of the variable   | Name of the variable            | Value: total or distribution | Source                           |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total of patients with diabetes   | G                               | 1.7 million (2001)           | ENTRED 2001-2007 [1]             |
|   |                                 | 2.4 million (2007)           |                                  |
| Total cost of diabetes  | C                               | 7.1 billion Euros (2001)     | ENTRED 2001-2007 [1]             |
|   |                                 | 12.9 billion Euros (2007)    |                                  |
| Total deaths related to diabetes  | D                               | 29,971 (2001)                | INVS CapiDC [21]                 |
|   |                                 | 34,599 (2009)                |                                  |
| Distribution of patients with diabetes according to nephropathy severity                          | G1 (Group 1)                    | g1=12%                       | HAS [22]                         |
|   | G2 (Group 2)                    | g2=15%                       | 100%-G1,3,4                      |
|   | G3 (Group 3)                    | g3=51%                       | ENRED 2007 [19]                  |
|   | G4 (Group 4)                    | g4=22%                       |                                  |
| Distribution of New cases (N) according to number of treatments received and corresponding groups | N1 for G1 (With no therapy)     | n1=42%                       | HAS [22]                         |
|   | N2 for G2 (Monotherapy)         | n2=48%                       |                                  |
|   | N3 for G3 (Bitherapy)           | n3=8%                        |                                  |
|   | N4 for G4 (Tritherapy and more) | n4=2%                        |                                  |
| Distribution of deaths according to diabetes severity   | G1                              | 5%                           | See appendix for details         |
|   | G2                              | 8%                           |                                  |
|   | G3                              | 37%                          |                                  |
|   | G4                              | 50%                          |                                  |
| Mortality Rate in each group (d)  | D1 for G1                       | d1                           | d1=5% Total Death/G1 population  |
|   | D2 for G2                       | d2                           | d2=8% Total Death/G2 population  |
|   | D3 for G3                       | d3                           | d3=37% Total Death/G3 population |
|   | D4 for G4                       | d4                           | d4=50% Total Death/G4 population |
| Distribution of the total cost according to Lorenz Concentration Curve of Cost of Diabetes        | c1 for G1                       | 0.50%                        | ENTRED 2007 [23]                 |
|   | c2 for G2                       | 2.40%                        |                                  |
|   | c3 for G3                       | 27.40%                       |                                  |
|   | c4 for G4                       | 69.80%                       |                                  |

Table 1: Table of data sources.

Knowing the number of patients in each group and supposing that it remains constant, knowing new cases and death rates, transition probabilities ( $tp_{ij}$ ) i.e. percentage of patients moving from one group to a more severe one, could be calculated.

Widespread screening of small fiber neuropathy should decrease the occurrence of complications and thus decrease  $tp_{ij}$ . Considering the two scenarios: usual practice i.e. without screening of small fiber neuropathy, in other words, the present situation and prevention policy with general screening of small fiber neuropathy using Sudoscan, the change in  $tp_{ij}$  induced by general screening of small fibers could be calculated using the following formula:  $tp_{ij}$  with screening =  $(1 - \rho) tp_{ij}$  without screening, where  $\rho$  is the potential global efficacy. We assumed this overall efficacy to be the product of three factors, namely  $\rho = \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \gamma$  where:

- $\alpha$  = penetration of the screening method in diabetic population;
- $\beta$  = stabilization rate i.e. percentage of patients that should have migrated from one stage to the following and that do not move due to screening of complications with total compliance of patients to recommendations as it could be observed in a perfect clinical trial;
- $\gamma$  = compliance of patients to recommendations issued from the diagnosis of small fiber neuropathy in usual practice.

Based on new  $tp_{ij}$  that would be observed with screening, the new size of each group could be calculated. Size changes in each patient group during the 5-year follow-up were obtained from differences between group sizes resulting from each of the two scenarios i.e.

without and with screening of small fiber neuropathies.

### Costs

To reflect the third-party payer's perspective, only direct medical costs were included. The Entred study performed in 2007 presented the distribution of costs as a Lorenz curve [23]. This curve was used to derive the total cost for each severity group according to its size and assuming that treatment cost was positively correlated with severity. The mean cost per patient in each severity group was then estimated from the total cost and number of patients in each group. Change in total costs associated with the implementation of general screening of small fiber neuropathy was then estimated according to mean patient costs in each severity group and changes in the size of each severity group.

An investment budget to acquire Sudoscan devices was also estimated for general screening.

### Summary of assumptions used to build the model and associated costs

- We assumed the stability of patient distribution among severity groups over time in the absence of a screening program of microvascular complications (current situation)

- Due to a lack of data in the literature, we assumed that the severity of the disease is positively associated with the number of prescriptions. Consequently patients newly diagnosed with diabetes ( $n_i$ ) are distributed in each severity group according to the number of prescriptions. For

example, we supposed that patients under monotherapy are in group 2 while patients with dual therapy are in group 3.

- The investment cost of a Sudoscan device is € 20,000.
- Assuming a complete follow-up and improvement of patient compliance to recommendations prescribed by the physician based on Sudoscan results, the number of screening tests to be performed according to patient severity could be:
  - for patients of group 1, 1 test/year,
  - for patients of group 2, 2 tests/year,
  - for patients of group 3, 4 tests/year.
  - No test for patients of group 4, since at this stage severe damage is already present and screening of small fiber neuropathy is no longer necessary.

### Sensitivity analyses

Deterministic sensitivity analyses at year 1, 3 and 5 were performed to assess the impact of most uncertain parameters, namely the distribution of patients among severity groups, the death rates in each severity group, and the distribution of newly diagnosed patients in each severity group. To do so, we estimated the impact of a change of +/- 20% in each of these parameters on results. The impact of change in potential global efficacy on gross benefit was also evaluated for the five years of follow-up.

### Results

Changes in the number of patients in each of the 4 severity groups resulting from the implementation of a general screening program of small fiber neuropathy are displayed in Table 2. For example by 2018 (year +5 in our model) the clinical benefit of a large screening program would enable more patients to avoid diabetes-related complications thus increasing the size of groups 1 and 2 and reducing the number of patients with mild or severe complications in groups 3 and 4. This would result in more than 25,000 patients switching from the two more

severe stages of complications to the two less severe ones.

Corresponding gross costs were estimated for each scenario (Table 2). For example in 2018 the total medical cost attributable to diabetes would be € 23.53 billion. The implementation of a generalized program of screening and follow-up of peripheral small fiber neuropathy would be associated with a total cost around € 23.25 billion. The gross benefit from this cost reduction of such a new prevention strategy would be around € 280 million in the fifth year, and the 5-year cumulative benefit would be € 837 million.

Results from the deterministic one-way sensitivity analyses on the impact of a variation in the distribution among the four identified severity groups of the diabetic population (distribution of groups), of newly diagnosed patients (distribution of new cases) and of overall mortality (distribution of deaths) are presented in Table 3. For simplicity, only the estimated value of the annual gross benefit from a large screening program at year 1, 3 and 5 resulting from a ±20% variation in selected parameters is presented.

For example in the worst case scenario (a decrease of 20% for each parameter) gross benefit would remain at more than € 50 million for the first year and more than € 255 million at the 5th year (using 6% as global efficacy as basal value).

As gross benefit is partly based on the global efficacy of the screening program on patient health status over time, we also tested the impact of this parameter on the annual cost reduction (Figure 2). For a potential global efficacy of 6%, gross benefit is € 55 million at year 1 (2014 in our model), € 168 million in 2016 and € 279 million in 2018.

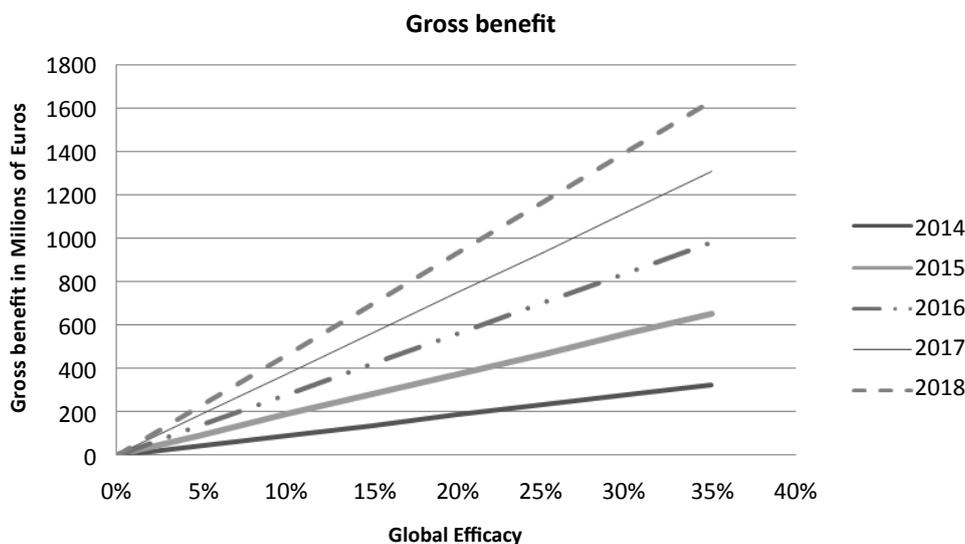
The preceding results are expressed as gross benefit from the implementation of a large screening program of small fiber neuropathy in patients with type 2 diabetes. The cost of such a screening program should be taken into consideration to obtain the net benefit of the intervention. It may be estimated that nearly 7 million tests would need to be performed annually in France based on the number of patients with type 2 diabetes. The mean duration per patient of a screening

| Years                   | Change in group size resulting from a general screening program |         |         |         | Total diabetes-related costs under actual practice | Total diabetes-related costs with a screening program | Gross benefit |
|-------------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|--|---|---------------|
|                         | Group 1   | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 |  |   |               |
| 2013                    | 0   | 0       | 0       | 0       | 18,700,000,000 €                                   | 18,700,000,000 €                                      | -             |
| 2014                    | 2,916   | 3,188   | -3,621  | -2,483  | 19,666,666,667 €                                   | 19,611,005,509 €                                      | 55,661,157 €  |
| 2015                    | 5,535   | 6,120   | -6,587  | -5,007  | 20,633,333,333 €                                   | 20,521,702,557 €                                      | 111,630,777 € |
| 2016                    | 7,905   | 8,826   | -8,997  | -7,552  | 21,600,000,000 €                                   | 21,432,369,935 €                                      | 167,630,065 € |
| 2017                    | 10,061  | 11,330  | -10,933 | -10,103 | 22,566,666,667 €                                   | 22,343,227,837 €                                      | 223,438,830 € |
| 2018                    | 12,035  | 13,655  | -12,466 | -12,647 | 23,533,333,333 €                                   | 23,254,448,529 €                                      | 278,884,805 € |
| Cumulated gross benefit |   |         |         |         |  |   | 837,245,633 € |

Table 2: Effects of a general screening program of small fiber neuropathy on the distribution of patients among severity groups and on the gross benefit.

| Horizon | Variable                  | Worst case    | Base case     | Best case     |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2014    | Distribution of Groups    | 52,428,564 €  | 55,661,157 €  | 60,062,661 €  |
|         | Distribution of New cases | 50,588,874 €  |               | 60,530,549 €  |
|         | Distribution of Deaths    | 52,076,014 €  |               | 59,194,440 €  |
| 2016    | Distribution of Groups    | 159,366,214 € | 167,630,065 € | 178,159,896 € |
|         | Distribution of New cases | 152,695,637 € |               | 181,868,163 € |
|         | Distribution of Deaths    | 157,283,076 € |               | 177,672,595 € |
| 2018    | Distribution of Groups    | 267,207,912 € | 278,884,805 € | 292,608,984 € |
|         | Distribution of New cases | 254,627,949 € |               | 301,868,201 € |
|         | Distribution of Deaths    | 262,512,591 € |               | 294,529,709 € |

Table 3: Selected results of one-way sensitivity analyses on annual gross benefit from a large screening program.



**Figure 2:** Gross benefit according to global efficacy of the screening method for the 5 years of follow-up. Global efficacy  $\rho = \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \gamma$  with  $\alpha$  = penetration of the screening method in diabetic population,  $\beta$  = stabilization rate i.e. percentage of patients that should have migrated from a stage to the following one and that do not move due to screening of complication with total compliance of patients to recommendations as it could be observed in a perfect clinical trial and  $\gamma$  = compliance of patients to recommendations issued from the diagnosis of small fiber neuropathy in usual practice. In our examples 6% was chosen as global efficacy.

test is estimated to be around 10 minutes (including removal of shoes and socks, recording of demographic data and time of measurement). Consequently, assuming that Sudoscan devices would be available in 50% of medical facilities responsible for the regular care of diabetic patients, we could estimate that nearly 2,200 devices would be necessary.

The total investment cost would be around € 44 million i.e. € 8.8 million of annual investment; considering there is no consumable and the annual depreciation, this investment is very low compared to the avoided costs.

## Discussion

This economic study indicates that a program of widespread screening of small fiber neuropathy could decrease the number of patients with severe complications by 2,400 for the first year and by 12,600 after 5 years of implementation thus reducing diabetes-related healthcare expenditures by € 837 million in a 5-year time period while the investment cost to perform such a screening program would be only € 44 million. Sensitivity analyses evidence that the benefit would remain significant even under the worst hypotheses.

Microvascular complications comprise retinopathy, nephropathy and peripheral neuropathy including autonomic neuropathy. Diabetic neuropathy is the most common microvascular complication [2]. To build the model, renal complications were chosen as they have been better researched, with data from very early stages easily obtainable and major publications on sub-clinical nephropathy available. This is contrary to peripheral neuropathies, which have been explored at late stages involving only large fiber nerves due to the methods recommended and used to assess them, i.e. monofilament and biothesiometer [24]. When looking at severe microvascular complications, the percentage of patients with severe neuropathies is comparable to patients with severe nephropathies, which are also comparable to the percentage of patients with severe retinopathies: this confirms the accuracy of the choice made to build the model [19].

The efficacy of a screening program for diabetes complications has been shown to efficiently reduce costs linked to complications

as evidenced by preliminary results from the Sophia program [7]. ACE prescriptions have been evidenced to reduce the occurrence of nephropathy [25]. In the same way laser treatment following retinopathy screening has been shown to reduce the occurrence of severe retinopathy [26].

At the present time, neuropathies are explored using tools like monofilaments that assess large fibers at a stage when the damage is presumed to be less reversible [24]. In addition recent studies have demonstrated that, even if there has been an improvement, only a low percentage of diabetic patients had monofilament examination by general practitioners, likely due to lack of time [7]. Smith et al. demonstrated through biopsies that small fiber neuropathies, i.e. early stages of peripheral neuropathy, could be reversed by lifestyle changes [27]. This result was confirmed by measurements performed using Quantitative Sudomotor Axon Reflex (QSART), a reference test used to measure sweat function and thus small fiber neuropathy in the research area [16]. Based on these preliminary studies one can propose that widespread screening of small fiber neuropathies at a stage when they can be reversed could avoid the occurrence of more severe complications in accordance to what has been observed for other microvascular complications such as retinopathy and nephropathy [7]. Early screening of small fiber neuropathy could be considered equivalent to microalbuminuria for detection of early nephropathy or retinopathy for widespread screening of early retinopathy.

In addition, the presence of two microvascular complications increases the risk of having more severe complications, reinforcing the need for screening of small fiber neuropathy in addition to screening of retinopathy and nephropathy [4].

For a potential global efficacy of 6% as chosen in our examples a penetration rate of 60% for the screening of small fiber has been suggested. For this test that is easy to use with results immediately available the penetration will depend on the strategy used and the efficacy of the prevention policy implemented. As a comparison, penetration of retinography - which needs interpretation by an

ophthalmologist - is actually lower while screening for nephropathy through biological samples is equivalent [26].

This budget impact analysis has several limitations:

- Due to the availability of data nephropathy was chosen to build the model. Distribution of severe cases is comparable for the 3 microvascular complications. Thus it was presumed that the distribution of patients according to severity should be comparable for the 3 microvascular complications.

- The model did not take into account the genetic predisposition for nephropathy.

- The percentage of screening efficacy (6%) could be lower than the one chosen to calculate benefits. Sensitivity analysis indicates that even with the worst hypothesis the benefit remains significant.

- Retinopathy and mainly nephropathy are already being evaluated and detected early. However the presence of two or more microvascular complications increases the risk to develop more severe complications. In addition it has been evidenced that peripheral neuropathy could occur before retinopathy or nephropathy.

- It was presumed that screening of one complication could decrease the global costs linked to all complications.

- In cost calculations, only the equipment was considered. According to the actual organization where diabetic patients are examined in hospital day care structures, the addition of a Sudoscan test should not add significant time to the follow-up of diabetic patients.

## Conclusion

Based on this economic analysis performed through a model developed for its purpose it can be concluded that widespread screening of small fiber neuropathy using a quick and non-invasive method could avoid more severe peripheral neuropathy and decrease the economic burden linked to such complications for a limited investment.

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## Appendix

### Brief description of Sudoscan method

SUDOSCAN® (Impeto Medical, Paris, France) is a new device designed to perform a quick, non-invasive and quantitative analysis of sweat gland function based on an electrochemical reaction between the chlorides in sweat and stainless-steel electrodes at low direct current (DC) voltage. To conduct the test, the individual is required to put the palms of the hands and soles of the feet in contact with the electrodes for 2 minutes. Electrochemical skin conductance (ESC) in the hands and feet, i.e. the ratio between current generated and the constant DC stimulus, is displayed on a monitor immediately after the end of the test. Neither special subject preparation nor specially trained medical personnel are required. Results are expressed as hands and feet ESC and the units are microSiemens (µS).

### Formula used for the calculation of size of groups, deaths, new cases in each group and transition probabilities

Formula, derived with the two time steps  $y$  and  $y-1$ , are defined to calculate size of groups, deaths, new cases and  $tp_{i,j}$  for year  $y$ . Same formula can be applied for following years. The cohort used in the model was the total number of patients with diabetes in France according to Entred study i.e. 1.7 million in 2001 and 2.4 million in 2007 (Table 1).

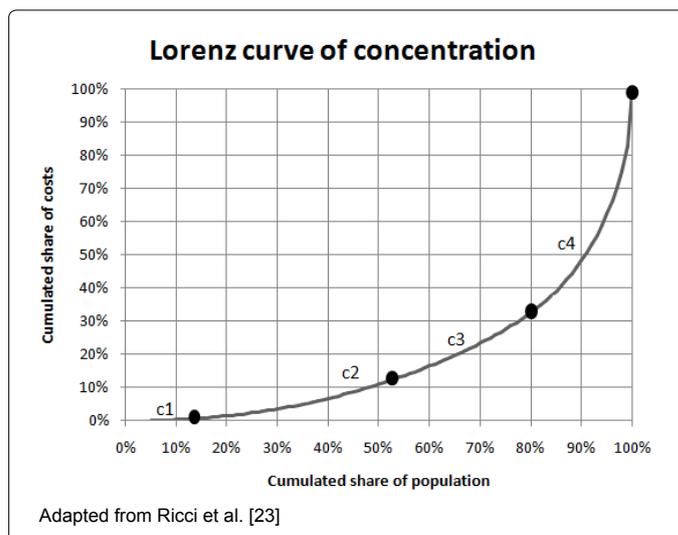
| Formula   | Description                                       |
|---|---|
| $G_j^y = g_j \cdot \sum_k G_k^y$  | Distribution of groups                            |
| $\sum_y N_i^y = \sum_y \alpha_i^y - \sum_y \alpha_i^{y-1} + \sum_y D_i^y$                   | New cases   |
| $N_j^y = n_j \cdot \sum_k N_k^y$  | Distribution of new cases                         |
| $D_j^y = d_j^y \cdot G_j^{y-1}$   | Deaths  |
| $tp_{1,2} = \frac{G_1^{y-1} - D_1^y + N_1^y - G_1^y}{G_1^{y-1}}$                            | Probability of transition from Group 1 to Group 2 |
| $tp_{2,3} = \frac{G_2^{y-1} - D_2^y + N_2^y + tp_{1,2} \cdot G_1^{y-1} - G_2^y}{G_2^{y-1}}$ | Probability of transition from Group 2 to Group 3 |
| $tp_{3,4} = \frac{G_3^{y-1} - D_3^y + N_3^y + tp_{2,3} \cdot G_2^{y-1} - G_3^y}{G_3^{y-1}}$ | Probability of transition from Group 3 to Group 4 |

### Death distribution

Based on the hypothesis that half of patients with diabetes die from their complications it can be supposed that half of deaths in total population occur in group with more severe complications (group 4). In patients without complications with a mean age of 55 years, percentage of deaths is about that will represent 5% of total deaths of patients with diabetes. Considering that death rates increase with severity death rate in group 2 is lower than in group 3 and should be between 6 and 10% of total death in the population of patients with diabetes: 8% was kept as a mean value. As total rate is 100% it gives 37% for group 3 (100-50-8-5).

### Costs

Cost calculation was based on Lorentz curve showing the increase in cumulated costs with complications. From this curve were defined the total cumulated costs for each group of complications (see steps and formula used in table below) and thus the cost per patient for each group (total cost of the group divided by the number of patients of the group) allowing the calculation of change in difference of costs induced by change in size of groups due to general screening.



| Distribution of costs for each group |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Groups                               | Distribution of patients with diabetes according to groups (g1,2,3,4) | Cumulated distribution of patients with diabetes according to groups (g1,2,3,4) | Corresponding cumulated costs according to distribution of patients by severity | Distribution of cost (c1,2,3,4) for each group (G1,2,3,4) |
| G1                                   | 12.00%  | 12.00%  | 0.46%   | 0.46%   |
| G2                                   | 15.06%  | 27.06%  | 2.81%   | 2.35%   |
| G3                                   | 50.59%  | 77.65%  | 30.18%  | 27.36%  |
| G4                                   | 22.35%  | 100.00%   | 100.00%   | 69.82%  |

### Sensitivity analysis

To perform sensitivity analysis on costs according to Tornado diagram it was necessary to evaluate in a first step the effect of a change of  $\pm 20\%$  on size of groups, distribution of new cases and deaths in each group. As size of groups depend on sizes of other groups, effects on other groups of a change in one group (\*) are displayed in the variation table (below). Considering that changes in costs induced by screening strategy depend on changes in transition probabilities that themselves depend on size of groups, death rates and new cases for each group, sensitivity analysis for costs as described in Table 3 could be performed.

| Variable                  |      | Worst case | Base case | Best case |
|---------------------------|------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Distribution of Groups    | G1   | 14.5%      | 12%       | 9.5%      |
|                           | G2   | 18.1%      | 15%       | 11.9%     |
|                           | G3*  | 40.8%      | 51%       | 61.2%     |
|                           | G4   | 26.6%      | 22%       | 17.4%     |
| Distribution of New cases | G1** | 42%        | 42%       | 42%       |
|                           | G2*  | 38%        | 48%       | 57.6%     |
|                           | G3   | 16%        | 8%        | 0,32%     |
|                           | G4   | 4%         | 2%        | 0,08%     |
| Distribution of Deaths    | G1   | 5%         | 5%        | 5%        |
|                           | G2   | 10%        | 8%        | 7%        |
|                           | G3   | 45%        | 37%       | 28%       |
|                           | G4*  | 40%        | 50%       | 60%       |

\* Group with application of +/- 20%  
 \*\* Unmodified because literature ensured the information

Variation table