**Cost-Effectiveness:**

QALY

Cost-Effectiveness studies are usually designed to compare two tests or treatments to decide if one is both less expensive with better outcomes, or more typically, if one is more expensive but has better outcomes. Some studies use outcomes such as cases of cancer diagnosed or CVA’s prevented, and give the result as cost per one outcome. Better studies use outcomes that use quality adjusted life years (QALY’s).

QALY is a measure of quality of life of an individual and how long that state lasts. For example, the quality of life of someone is good health is defined as 1; if someone dies, his quality of life is 0 (pretty obvious). However, many disease states have a defined quality of life between 0 and 1. For example, someone with GOLD 1 COPD may have a quality of life of 0.9, and someone s/p CVA with residual left hemiparesis might have a value of 0.6.

QALY is the number of years in each quality of life state times that value of quality. For example, someone who after treatment to prevent CVA lives 5 years with quality of life of 1, then has a CVA, and lives 3 years with a quality of life of 0.6 has 5(1) + 3(0.6) = 5 + 1.8 = 6.8 QALY’s.

Question

QALY can best be described as:

A. A measure of cost of an intervention

B. A movie about a futuristic empathic robot

C. A measure of quality of life

D. Health care quality/cost