

# Health care costs and the diffusion of medical technologies

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## Objective

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Investigate to what extent **health care technology** may be an important explanatory factor of **health care costs** in **Switzerland**.

## Methodology

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We capture **health care technology** through the availability of infrastructure-intensive capabilities involved in diagnostic imaging, in the treatment of cardiac and cancer patients, and newborns. We propose to build a unique panel data set at the canton-level based on data from various federal and cantonal offices, medical associations as well as our own data search.

We propose to assess **the impact of technology availability on health care costs** while controlling for the possible endogeneity of health technology availability variables. Instrumental variables methods will be used.

Furthermore, we will estimate a system of equations studying jointly the **impact of technology diffusion on costs** and the **factors associated with the diffusion of several technologies**, thus controlling for the fact that some technologies might be complements or substitutes.

## Contribution to the literature

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This research represents a significant contribution to the literature assessing the **impact of technology on health care expenditures** and to the literature identifying the **determinants of health technology adoption**. It will also have major **health policy implications**.

## Research team

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