



Arany János utca 6-8.  
Budapest H-1051  
P.O.B. 637 Budapest  
H-1243 Hungary  
Phone: (36-1)354-5326  
(36-1)354-5327  
Fax: (36-1)266-9710  
<http://www.eski.hu>

## 1. Background

The Office of Health Technology Assessment of the National Institute for Strategic Health Research was formed in 2004 with the aim of establishing in Hungary, similarly to other EU member states, an independent institution to support decision-makers in their rational use of healthcare resources, through the provision of analyses and recommendations.

## 2. Role and duties of the Office of Health Technology Assessment

The Office, as a newly established organisational unit of a highly regarded and long-established institute, provides an organisational framework for the technology assessment that forms the basis for the medicine subsidy approval policy of the National Health Insurance Fund, and performs the related medical and economic assessment duties.

The National Health Insurance Fund makes decisions regarding the granting of subsidies for new medicines, based on the findings presented by the National Institute for Strategic Health Research.

### The Office of Health Technology Assessment

- determines the professional guidelines for analysing health technology, coordinates the assessment of new and existing technologies, and issues instructions for the use of individual technologies.
- based on a combination of clinical evidence, efficacy and cost-effectiveness factors, provides reliable and undistorted information for the appraisal of individual procedures, comparing them with alternative opportunities for the use of resources.
- facilitates the appropriate use of cost-effective healthcare technologies, and provides support for decision-makers.

## 3. Results

The majority of applications were related to anti-tumour drugs and products designed to treat diseases of the cardiovascular or central nervous system.

In addition, the Office performs problem-oriented comparative examinations, such as the comprehensive policy study of Positron Emission Tomography (PET), Gamma-knife Surgery, Coronaria-stents and Oncology.

The specialist work carried out at the Office is the result of effective teamwork by teams of medical and health economics experts.

## 4. Summary

In the initial period, staff at the Office of Health Technology Assessment focused primarily on assessments of medicines to determine their eligibility for social insurance funding, but as the new institutional structure becomes more firmly established, it is increasingly able to perform thorough, comprehensive assessments of other health technologies.

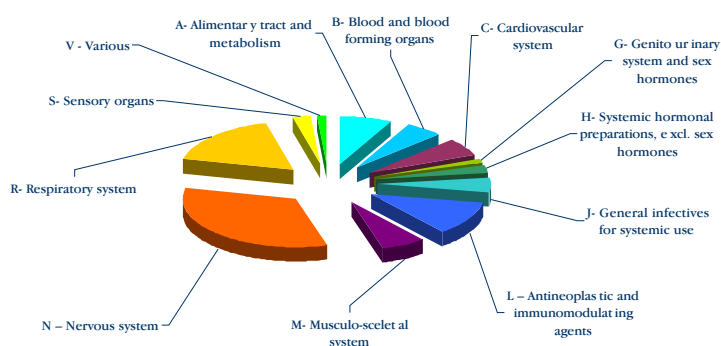
### Applications 2004

ATC group	Applications
A - Alimentary tract and metabolism	12
B - Blood and blood forming organs	15
C - Cardiovascular system	12
G - Genito-urinary system and sex hormones	2
H - Systemic hormonal preparations, excl. sex hormones	2
J - General infectives for systemic use	12
L - Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents	14
M - Musculo-skeletal system	7
N - Nervous system	60
R - Respiratory system	27
S - Sensory organs	2
V - Various	1
Total:	166

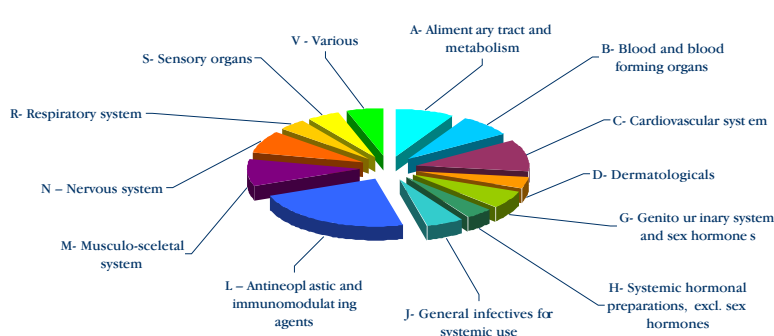
### Applications 2005

ATC group	Applications
A - Alimentary tract and metabolism	18
B - Blood and blood forming organs	19
C - Cardiovascular system	29
D - Dermatologicals	6
G - Genito-urinary system and sex hormones	13
H - Systemic hormonal preparations, excl. sex hormones	8
J - General infectives for systemic use	9
L - Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents	52
M - Musculo-skeletal system	14
N - Nervous system	24
R - Respiratory system	12
S - Sensory organs	6
V - Various	13
Total:	223

### Products, 2004



### Products, 2005



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