Understanding value drivers of European payers' evaluation of products that combine pharmaceuticals, medical technology and digital health – is a new approach needed?

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Innovation is increasing in integrated products combining a drug, a connected 'smart' administration device and an application that supports disease management. Specific evaluation frameworks for these combination products do not yet exist. We assessed how payers evaluate the pricing and access potential of innovative digital health technologies that combine a drug, a 'smart' device and a companion application.



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45 national or sub-national payers across European markets were surveyed in June 2021. Participating payers were asked, via an online questionnaire, what drives higher willingness to pay (WTP) and/or access for a drug, smart device and app combination product versus the same drug with a non-connected device and no app.

	Total	National	Sub- national	>3 years experience in role
FRANCE	5	5		80%
GERMANY	10	5	5	100%
ITALY	10	5	5	80%
SPAIN	10	6	4	80%
UK	10	4	6	100%

Table 1. Payer sample

Abbreviations: HCP = healthcare professional; QoL = quality of life; RCT = randomised control trial; RWE; real-world evidence; SAE = serious adverse event; WTP = willingness to pay



Figure 1: Proportion of surveyed payers who state no attributes of a connected device and app provided in combination with a drug increases WTP, but that they may influence HCP willingness to prescribe

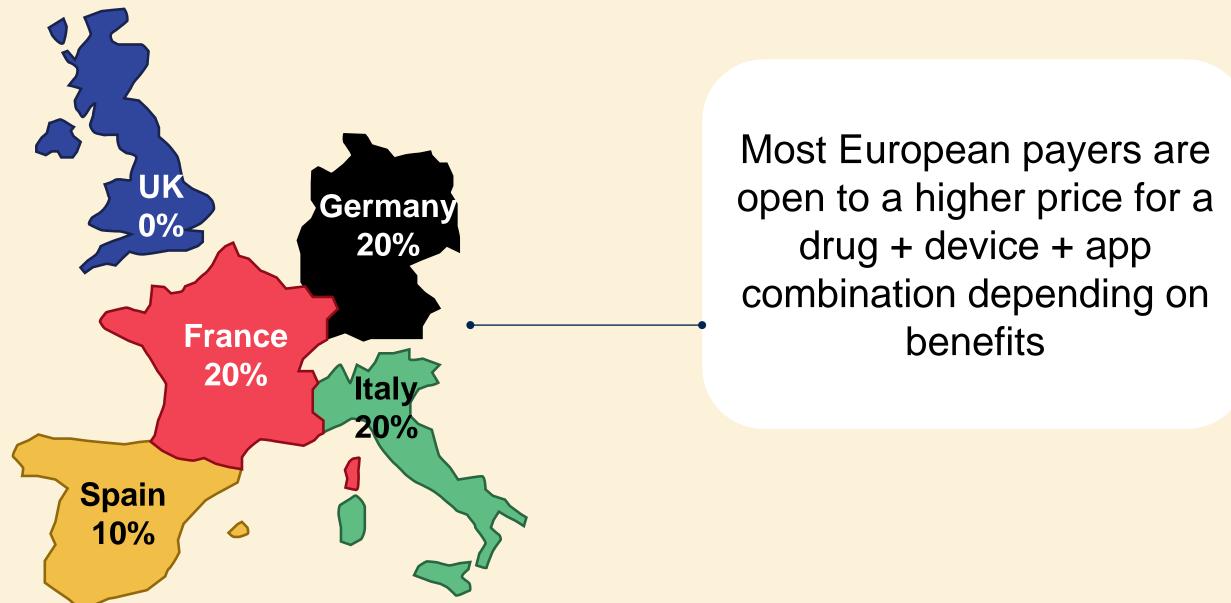
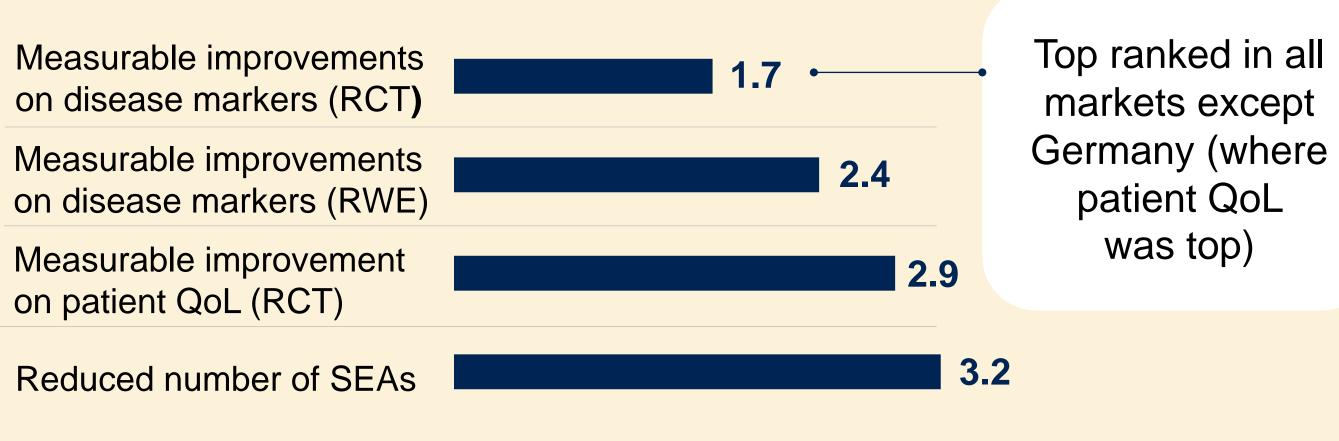
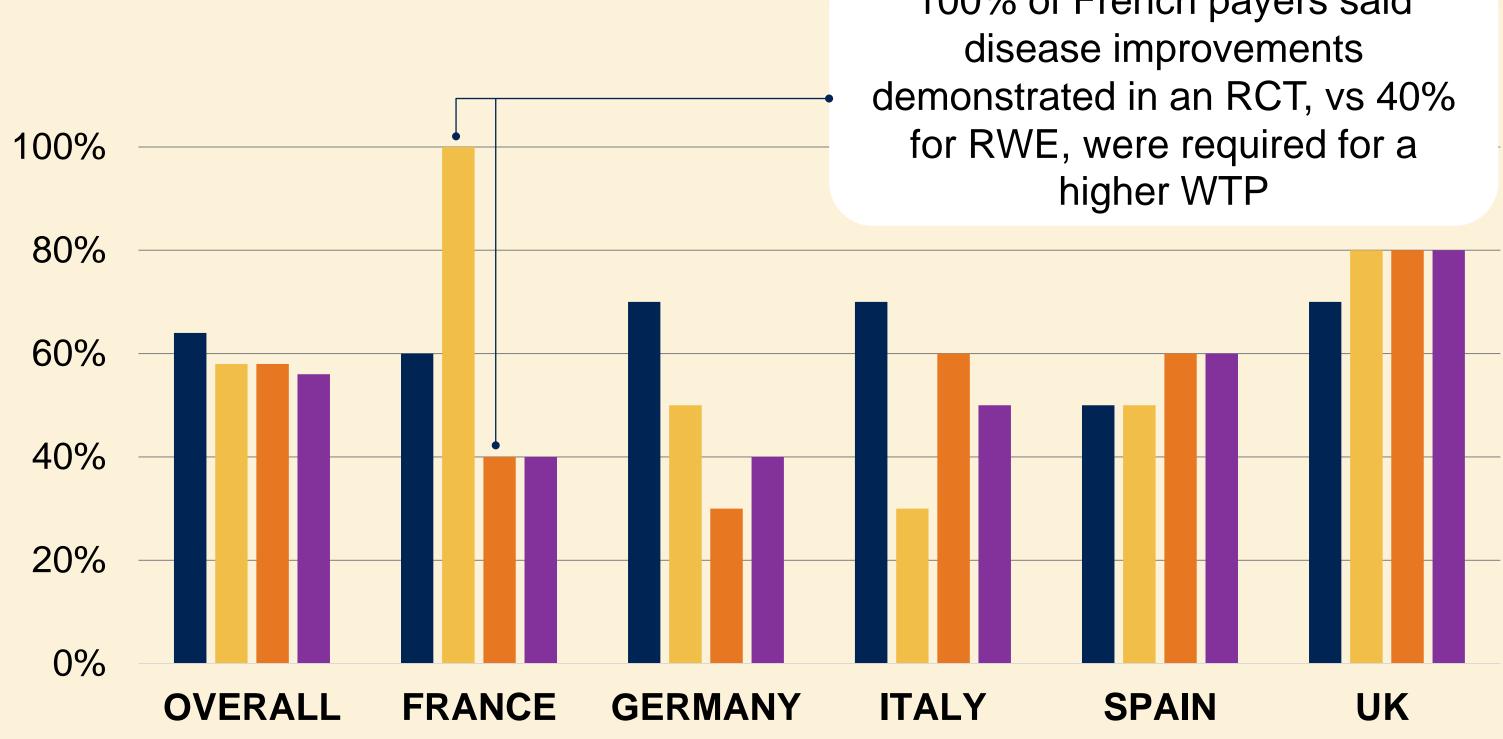


Figure 3: Top ranked attributes that drive price premium and access (1-7, where 1 is the most important) according to surveyed payers who were open to a higher WTP (n=40)



Top ranked in all

Figure 2: Proportion of surveyed payers' most frequently mentioned attributes that need to be demonstrated for a drug, administration device and app combination product to be associated with higher WTP vs the same drug with a regular, non-connected, device and no app



- Reduction of SAEs
- Measurable improvements on relevant disease markers, in an RCT
- Measurable improvements on relevant disease markers, in a real-world setting
- Demonstration of improved adherence/compliance in a real-world setting



The establishment of frameworks for evaluation of these innovative technologies is still in its infancy. Conventional evidence from RCTs is still largely preferred over real-world data, however, we argue that RCTs do not capture the real-world benefit provided by integrated drug and digital/technological advances. Instead, more pragmatic approaches to evidence generated in real-world settings and conditional reimbursement should be considered.



100% of French payers said