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# Cost-effectiveness of bevacizumab therapy in the care of patients with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia

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#### Abstract:

No FDA or EMA approved therapies exist for bleeding due to hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), the second-most-common inherited bleeding disorder worldwide. The current standard-of-care (SOC) includes iron and red cell supplementation, alongside the necessary hemostatic procedures, none of which target underlying disease pathogenesis. Recent evidence has demonstrated that bleeding pathophysiology is amenable to systemic antiangiogenic therapy with the anti-VEGF bevacizumab. Despite its high cost, the addition of longitudinal bevacizumab to the current SOC may reduce overall healthcare resource utilization and improve patient quality-of-life. We conducted the first cost-effectiveness analysis of IV bevacizumab in patients with HHT with the moderate-tosevere phenotype, comparing 1) bevacizumab added to SOC versus 2) SOC alone. The primary outcome was the incremental net monetary benefit (iNMB) reported over a lifetime time horizon and across accepted willingness-to-pay thresholds, in USD per quality-adjusted-life-year (QALY). Bevacizumab therapy accrued 9.3 QALYS while generating \$428,000 in costs, compared to 8.3 QALYS and \$699,000 in costs accrued in the SOC strategy. The iNMB of bevacizumab therapy versus the standard of care was \$433,000. No parameter variation and no scenario analysis, including choice of iron supplementation product, changed the outcome of bevacizumab being a cost-saving strategy. Bevacizumab therapy also saved patients an average of 133 hours spent receiving HHT-specific care per year of life. In probabilistic sensitivity analysis, bevacizumab was favored in 100% of all 10,000 Monte Carlo iterations across base-case and all scenario analyses. Bevacizumab should be considered for more favorable formulary placement in the care of patients with moderate-to-severe HHT.

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# 1 <u>Title Page</u>

hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia

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5 6 Running Title: Cost savings of bevacizumab in hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia 7 8 Authors: Daniel Wang, BS<sup>1</sup>, Satoko Ito, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Christina Waldron, BS<sup>1</sup>, Ayesha Butt, MD<sup>3</sup>, Ellen Zhang, MD<sup>4</sup>, Harlan M. Krumholz, MD, SM<sup>5,6</sup>, \*Hanny Al-Samkari, MD<sup>7</sup> and 9 10 \*George Goshua, MD, MSc<sup>2,6</sup> 11 \*Co-senior authors. 12 13 <sup>1</sup>Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT; <sup>2</sup>Section of Hematology, Department of Internal Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT; <sup>3</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Yale 14 University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT; <sup>4</sup>Department of Medicine, Stanford 15 16 University Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA; <sup>5</sup>Section of Cardiovascular Medicine, Yale School of 17 Medicine, New Haven, CT; <sup>6</sup>Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT; <sup>7</sup>Division of Hematology Oncology, Massachusetts General 18 19 Hospital, Cambridge, MA 20 21 Corresponding Author Contact: 22 Full Name: George Goshua, MD, MSc, FACP 23 Address: 333 Cedar St, New Haven, CT 24 Email: george.goshua@yale.edu 25 26 For original data, please email the corresponding author. 27

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30 KEY POINTS (140 characters each)

Longitudinal systemic bevacizumab is a cost-saving therapeutic option in the care of
 HHT patients with moderate-to-severe bleeding

Cost savings are mediated by decreased need for iron and RBC supplementation,
 hemostatic procedures, and hospitalizations

35 ABSTRACT (250-word limit)

36 No FDA or EMA approved therapies exist for bleeding due to hereditary hemorrhagic 37 telangiectasia (HHT), the second-most-common inherited bleeding disorder worldwide. The 38 current standard-of-care (SOC) includes iron and red cell supplementation, alongside the 39 necessary hemostatic procedures, none of which target underlying disease pathogenesis. 40 Recent evidence has demonstrated that bleeding pathophysiology is amenable to systemic 41 antiangiogenic therapy with the anti-VEGF bevacizumab. Despite its high cost, the addition 42 of longitudinal bevacizumab to the current SOC may reduce overall healthcare resource 43 utilization and improve patient quality-of-life. We conducted the first cost-effectiveness 44 analysis of IV bevacizumab in patients with HHT with the moderate-to-severe phenotype, 45 comparing 1) bevacizumab added to SOC versus 2) SOC alone. The primary outcome was 46 the incremental net monetary benefit (iNMB) reported over a lifetime time horizon and 47 across accepted willingness-to-pay thresholds, in USD per quality-adjusted-life-year (QALY). 48 Bevacizumab therapy accrued 9.3 QALYS while generating \$428,000 in costs, compared to 49 8.3 QALYs and \$699,000 in costs accrued in the SOC strategy. The iNMB of bevacizumab 50 therapy versus the standard of care was \$433,000. No parameter variation and no scenario 51 analysis, *including choice of iron supplementation product*, changed the outcome of 52 bevacizumab being a cost-saving strategy. Bevacizumab therapy also saved patients an 53 average of 133 hours spent receiving HHT-specific care per year of life. In probabilistic 54 sensitivity analysis, bevacizumab was favored in 100% of all 10,000 Monte Carlo iterations 55 across base-case and all scenario analyses. Bevacizumab should be considered for more 56 favorable formulary placement in the care of patients with moderate-to-severe HHT.

# 57 Introduction

58 Hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT) is the second-most-common inherited bleeding 59 disorder worldwide, afflicting 1 in 5,000 or 1.4 million persons, or twice the prevalence of hemophilia A and twelve times the prevalence of hemophilia B.<sup>1</sup> Vascular lesions that 60 61 develop with disease progression result in recurrent mucosal bleeding, leading to iron deficiency anemia in most patients.<sup>2-4</sup> As such, HHT is associated with substantial morbidity 62 63 and mortality at every year lived, with significant decreases in both quality of life and life expectancy.<sup>5-8</sup> Unlike the inherited bleeding disorders hemophilia and von Willebrand 64 disease, there are no FDA or EMA approved therapies for HHT-associated bleeding.<sup>9</sup> The 65 66 current standard-of-care (SOC) consists of red blood cell (RBC) transfusion, intravenous 67 (IV) iron supplementation, and local hemostatic procedures (i.e., nasal, gastrointestinal).<sup>1,4</sup> 68 Such interventions may help manage the symptoms of HHT but do not target its underlying 69 pathogenesis – burdening patients with the need for lifelong, recurrent exposure to the risks 70 of repeat iron and RBC support, as well as surgical procedures, all alongside an increasing age-dependent hazard of bleeding and bleeding-associated complications.<sup>10</sup> 71

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73 Bleeding pathophysiology in HHT is amenable to vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) 74 inhibition and the monoclonal anti-VEGF antibody bevacizumab has shown great promise as 75 a disease-modifying therapeutic.<sup>4</sup> The multisite, international, observational InHIBIT-Bleed 76 study (International HHT Intravenous Bevacizumab Investigative Team Study of Bleeding) 77 was the largest clinical study evaluating a therapeutic intervention in HHT (n=238) to date 78 and employed a retrospective pre-versus a prospective post-bevacizumab intra-patient 79 comparison study design.<sup>9</sup> InHIBIT-Bleed demonstrated that longitudinal IV bevacizumab 80 significantly improved clinical symptoms, raised hemoglobin levels, and nearly abrogated 81 the need for IV iron infusions and RBC transfusions for patients with HHT. Although 82 bevacizumab is an expensive biologic agent with a financial barrier to access in the United 83 States, we hypothesized that reduction in healthcare resource utilization and improvement

in transfusion-dependence would improve quality of life for patients with HHT at costs
commensurate with added clinical value (i.e., that bevacizumab is a cost-effective
intervention).<sup>11</sup> Accordingly, we conducted the first cost-effectiveness analysis of IV
bevacizumab therapy in HHT.

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## 89 <u>Methods</u>

90 Model Structure

91 We built a Markov cohort simulation model of adult patients with a diagnosis of HHT to 92 examine the cost-effectiveness of treatment with 1) bevacizumab added to the current 93 standard-of-care (hereon referred to as "bevacizumab" for simplicity) versus 2) the current 94 standard-of-care alone. Rates of RBC transfusion, iron infusion, and healthcare resource 95 utilization in both treatment arms was informed by InHIBIT-Bleed study intra-patient 96 comparison data for pre- versus post-bevacizumab that included descriptive statistics for 1) 97 RBC transfusions, 2) IV iron infusions, 3) hemostatic procedures (number and type), 4) hospitalizations (number and length), and 5) emergency department visits.<sup>9</sup> During each 98 99 model cycle, patients may experience RBC- and iron-related adverse events including 100 delayed hemolytic transfusion reactions (DHTR), transfusion-associated circulatory overload 101 (TACO), transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI), post-transfusion purpura (PTP), or 102 iron infusion-related anaphylaxis, which may lead to death. Transition probabilities for these 103 adverse events were sourced from hemovigilance reports including the 2015 National Blood 104 Collection and Utilization Survey, 2008-2018 World Health Organization (WHO) Vigibase 105 data, 2014-2019 FDA Adverse Event Reporting System, Medicare data (2010-2013), and the 2021 Serious Hazards of Transfusion report.<sup>12-16</sup> These adverse events were also 106 107 nullified in a scenario analysis to show the effect of the complete absence of RBC and iron-108 related adverse events on whether the model result changed.

In addition, patients may also discontinue bevacizumab due to adverse events (AEs), after which they return to the SOC treatment paradigm, no longer receiving bevacizumab and so experiencing a return of bleeding events to the status quo (i.e., standard of care). All transition probabilities were directly informed by InHIBIT study data. Treatment-specific patient time and lost wages (up to age 65, representing the assumed age of retirement in the United States) were also accounted for across IV infusions, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and hemostatic procedures.

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118 We assumed a starting age of 63 years to reflect the mean age of patients enrolled in 119 InHIBIT-Bleed, and further explored the effect of earlier bevacizumab initiation in sensitivity 120 analysis. Transition-state cycles were 6 months in duration, in line with the lengths of the 121 pre- and post-bevacizumab portions of the InHIBIT study, with a lifetime time-horizon and a 122 62:38 male:female sex mix, reflecting the study results. The primary outcome was either 123 the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER), or the incremental net monetary benefit 124 (iNMB) if intervention was found to be cost-saving (i.e., intervention saves costs while 125 yielding increased quality-adjusted life expectancy). The secondary outcome was the 126 aggregated patient time spent receiving HHT-specific care. We performed this analyses from 127 both the US healthcare system and societal perspectives (i.e., incorporating wages lost due 128 to time spent on HHT-specific care as part of overall costs),<sup>17</sup> doing so across a range of 129 conventionally accepted willingness-to-pay (WTP) thresholds in the United States (\$50,000-130 \$150,000 per quality-adjusted life year [QALY]), and discounting cost and effectiveness by 3% annually, as recommended in the US context.<sup>17,18</sup> We constructed our model using 131 132 TreeAge Pro Healthcare 2023 (TreeAge Software, Williamstown, MA). Consolidated Health 133 Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) guidelines were implemented where 134 applicable.

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136 Model Assumptions

137 Age- and disease-specific annual background mortality probabilities for patients living with 138 HHT were informed by 2022 United States Life Tables and a population-based study 139 comparing mortality risk in an HHT cohort with that of a matched cohort of individuals 140 without HHT.<sup>5,19</sup> Base-case estimates and ranges for all input parameters used in the model 141 are reported in Table 1. Ferric carboxymaltose was chosen as the base-case iron 142 supplement given its market dominance among IV iron products, estimated at over 47% US 143 market share.<sup>20–23</sup> We explored this assumption extensively both in sensitivity analyses and 144 also scenario analyses which employed use of ferumoxytol and iron dextran in place of ferric 145 carboxymaltose, as described below (see "Sensitivity and Scenario Analyses"). To account 146 for aggregated patient time spent received HHT-related care, we assumed that all infusion 147 types (RBC, iron, and bevacizumab) cost patients half of one working day, or 4 hours of 148 wages; with hemostatic procedures costing 1 working day (8 hours) and hospitalization 149 costing 5.5 days. In addition, although patients who undergo bevacizumab discontinuation 150 largely do so in the first few months of drug use, we extrapolated bevacizumab 151 discontinuation to continue beyond the first year of its successful use, doing so at 10% of 152 the initial discontinuation rate annually. All of these assumptions were extensively tested in 153 sensitivity analysis to see if any affect model results (i.e., which strategy is the cost-154 effective strategy).

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156 Costs

All costs were adjusted to 2023 US dollars using the medical component of the consumer
price index.<sup>24</sup> The costs of bevacizumab, RBCs, iron supplementation, emergency
department visits, and endoscopic hemostatic procedures were obtained from the 2023
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment
System.<sup>11</sup> We assumed a mean patient body weight of 84.05kg, as per the January 2021 US
Vital and Health Statistics Report.<sup>25</sup> HHT-specific hospitalization costs were sourced from a
retrospective cross-sectional analysis of 2000-2014 Nationwide Impatient Sample discharge

data.<sup>26</sup> The cost of intranasal hemostatic procedures (including embolization, passage
ablation, and arterial ligation) were sourced from Healthcare Bluebook and previous
economic evaluations of epistaxis treatment in the US.<sup>27-29</sup>

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168 Quality-adjusted life-years

169 Health outcomes estimated by our model were expressed in quality-adjusted life-years 170 (QALYs), a measure that accounts for both health-related quality of life and length of life. 171 QALYs were informed by age-specific EQ-5D index values derived from one of the only large 172 (n=187) quality of life studies in HHT patients worldwide.<sup>6</sup> The EQ-5D (EuroQol-5d) is a 173 preference-based health-related-quality-of-life tool used by patients to measure self-174 reported health across the dimensions of mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain or discomfort, and anxiety or depression.<sup>30,31</sup> Its use has been validated in variety of clinical 175 176 settings, including in multiple hematologic malignancies and bleeding disorders such as 177 hemophilia.<sup>32,33</sup> To capture the utility increment for patients in the bevacizumab treatment 178 arm we employed anemia-severity-specific (i.e., patient population improved from severe to 179 moderate anemia) utilities derived from the 2019 Global Burden of Disease Study.<sup>34</sup> The 180 Global Burden of Disease Study estimates the incidence, prevalence, mortality, years of life 181 lost, and disability-adjusted life-years due to over 360 disease and injuries across 204 182 countries and territories. Principle input data include censuses, civil registration and vital statistics, disease registries, and household surveys.<sup>35,36</sup> Please see the Appendix for further 183 184 detail.

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# 186 Sensitivity and Scenario Analyses

We quantified the sampling uncertainty within the parameters of our Markov model by performing one-way (deterministic) and probabilistic sensitivity analyses (PSA). In deterministic sensitivity analyses, utilities and non-utility parameters were varied by +/-10% and +/-50%, respectively. In the PSA, data-driven probability distributions for input

191 parameters with probabilistic uncertainty were assigned (Table 1). We employed  $\beta$ -PERT 192 distributions for utilities and transition probabilities, and  $\gamma$  distributions for costs, while 193 simultaneously ensuring random draws from each distribution via 10,000 second order 194 Monte Carlo simulations.  $\gamma$  distributions were employed to best model the RBC and iron 195 supplementation count requirements reported for pre- (retrospective) and post-196 (prospective) bevacizumab treatment in InHIBIT-Bleed patients. We concluded by 197 examining scenario analyses using iron dextran and ferumoxytol for IV iron supplementation 198 as alternative formulations. This purposefully covers a range of choices that include the 199 least costly per infusion product (i.e., dextran) and most (i.e., ferric carboxymaltose from 200 base-case). The costs of all IV iron products were sourced from the CMS Hospital Outpatient 201 Prospective Payment System, while the rates of anaphylaxis (and subsequent mortality) 202 were informed by the WHO VigiBase and data from the FDA Adverse Event Reporting 203 System, which as noted before (see "Model Structure") were separately nullified in an 204 additional scenario analysis. 14,16

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#### 206 **Results**

207 Base-case cost-effectiveness analysis

208 The estimated total cost, QALYs, and net monetary benefit associated with each treatment 209 strategy at a lifetime-time horizon are reported in Table 2. In the base-case, bevacizumab 210 versus SOC alone costs \$428,000 and \$699,000 while accruing 9.3 and 8.3 QALYs, 211 respectively. The iNMB with bevacizumab was \$433,000 [95% credible interval \$215,000-212 \$942,000] from the US health system perspective and \$444,000 [95% CI \$217,000-213 \$973,000] from the societal perspective, at a WTP of \$150,000/QALY. Bevacizumab is also 214 predicted to save patients 2,034 hours over a lifetime, or 133 hours per year lived 215 compared to the SOC alone. 216

217 Sensitivity Analyses

218 One-way sensitivity analyses identified no parameter changed that caused the iNMB to fall 219 below \$0, always favoring bevacizumab (Figure 1). The top 5 parameters to which the 220 model was most sensitive to were, in order: patient age at treatment initiation, the number 221 of hospitalizations experienced under the current SOC, the cost of hospitalization, the cost 222 of bevacizumab, and patient weight. No change in any of these parameters changed the 223 model outcome to favor SOC (Figure 1). Of note, varying the rate of bevacizumab 224 discontinuation did not change the model outcome; in fact, it did not affect the iNMB by 225 more than 10% (Figure 1). In probabilistic sensitivity analyses, bevacizumab was favored 226 over SOC alone in 100% of the 10,000 Monte Carlo iterations: cost-saving in 99.4% and, at 227 worst, cost-effective in the remaining 0.6% of iterations (Figure 2).

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# 229 Scenario Analyses

230 Our scenario analyses for different iron products (i.e., rather than ferric carboxymaltose) all 231 show that bevacizumab continues to be the cost-effective strategy (Table 3). Specifically, 232 with ferumoxytol as the choice of iron supplementation, bevacizumab costs \$407,000 and 233 accrues 9.3 QALYs, compared to \$598,000 in costs and 8.3 QALYs in the SOC alone. The 234 iNMB with bevacizumab was \$354,000 [95% CI \$181,000-\$652,000] and bevacizumab was 235 preferred in 100% of 10,000 Monte Carlo iterations in PSA. When iron dextran is used as 236 the choice of iron supplementation, bevacizumab costs \$398,000 and generates 9.3 QALYs, 237 compared to \$552,000 in costs and 8.3 QALYs accrued in the SOC alone. The iNMB with 238 bevacizumab was \$316,000 [95% CI \$147,000 - \$567,000] and bevacizumab was preferred 239 in 100% of 10,000 Monte Carlo iterations in PSA. 240

241 In a third scenario analysis when RBC- and iron-related adverse events were nullified,

bevacizumab remains the cost-effective strategy, accruing 9.3 QALYs at \$428,000 in costs

compared to 8.3 QALYs and \$700,000 in the SOC alone (Table 4). The iNMB with

bevacizumab was \$432,000 [95% CI \$217,000 - 941,000] and was preferred over the SOC
alone in 100% of 10,000 Monte Carlo iterations in PSA.

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# 247 **Discussion**

248 To our knowledge, this is the first cost-effectiveness analysis of any therapeutic in HHT, a 249 multisystem disease with significant population health impact and documented prior 250 inequities.<sup>37,38</sup> Our findings suggest that, regardless of the willingness-to-pay threshold, 251 bevacizumab appears to be a cost-saving intervention that also improves the quality-252 adjusted life expectancy of patients with HHT.<sup>39,40</sup> This overwhelming benefit is mediated by 253 a reduction in the need for all hemostatic procedures, hospitalizations, emergency 254 department visits, RBC transfusions, and iron infusions in a vulnerable patient population. 255 Beyond cost-effectiveness, bevacizumab also saves patients over 100 hours per year lived 256 spent on receiving HHT-related care. Moreover, these effects are consistent regardless of 257 the choice of IV iron supplementation.

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259 These results are impactful for several reasons and extend the literature in several ways. 260 First, our model adds to the growing body of clinical evidence, including the InHIBIT-Bleed 261 study and the Second International Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of HHT, 262 supporting the use of IV bevacizumab in HHT patients with a defined phenotype of moderate to severe bleeding.<sup>9,41</sup> The clinical improvement seen with bevacizumab treatment 263 264 stands in stark contrast to other systemic agents that were less efficacious when evaluated for HHT-associated bleeding, such as tranexamic acid and oral estrogen.<sup>42-44</sup> Nasal 265 266 pharmacotherapy with timolol, tranexamic acid, and even nasal bevacizumab has also shown no improvement in epistaxis severity compared to placebo.<sup>45-47</sup> Estrogen nasal 267 pharmacotherapy has garnered mixed results with no conclusive evidence of benefit.<sup>47,48</sup> As 268 269 such, IV bevacizumab should be strongly considered as a best-choice agent for the 270 treatment of moderate-to-severe HHT-associated bleeding.

Second, while patients seen at an HHT Center of Excellence will be treated according to the 272 273 International Guidelines, only 30 such centers currently exist in North America and the 274 majority of community-based physicians remain less familiar with bevacizumab use in HHT 275 or HHT itself.<sup>4</sup> This lack of awareness, combined with under-recognition and delayed 276 diagnosis – a substantial problem in HHT care – means that many patients currently 277 experience worse outcomes and quality of life than is necessary, at an increased cost to all payers.<sup>49,50</sup> Our work highlights the importance of educating both physicians and patients 278 279 about the benefit of bevacizumab therapy in HHT, as well as providing a quantitative, value-280 based analysis for the inclusion of an HHT-specific bevacizumab indication for those making 281 coverage decisions. Finally, our analysis further supports the value of decision science and 282 cost-effectiveness studies in evaluating therapeutic options in multisystemic, rare disease 283 spaces such as HHT, especially as patients would benefit before large randomized controlled 284 trials can accrue and reach completion.

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286 Because of its wide variety of symptoms ranging from epistaxis and GI bleeding to less 287 specific signs such as dyspnea from lung AVMs or headaches, local and community 288 physicians – including primary care doctors, cardiologists, pulmonologists, 289 gastroenterologists, otolaryngologists, and neurologists - should all be prepared to serve as primary points of contact and care for patients with HHT.<sup>4,51</sup> As such, our results have broad 290 291 implications for providers across the country, regardless of specialty. However, many are 292 unfamiliar with the important, multisystem manifestations of the disease, which may lead to delayed screening, diagnosis, and initiation of guideline-directed therapies.<sup>51,52</sup> Therefore, 293 294 bridging this gap in knowledge while continuing to advocate for multispecialty, 295 interdisciplinary collaboration in the treatment of patients with HHT remains of utmost 296 importance in improving overall quality of care. 297

298 Our model has several strengths. First, our model parameters are directly informed by the 299 real-world clinical outcomes of the largest (n = 238) reported cohort of patients, serving as 300 their own controls with a retrospective pre- and prospective post-treatment study design in 301 the multicenter, international InHIBIT-Bleed study. The structure of our model also accounts 302 for a wide variety of possible adverse events - including to RBCs, iron, and bevacizumab -303 whose probabilities are scaled on an exposure-dependent basis so as to best approximate 304 the risks that real patients face with repeated infusions (see Appendix for more details). 305 Additionally we performed scenario analyses to examine the impact of varying iron 306 supplementation products on our model results, purposefully selecting from commonly used 307 agents across low (iron dextran), medium (ferumoxytol), and high (ferric caroxymaltose) 308 price points on a per-infusion basis. We found that regardless of iron product, bevacizumab 309 continues to produce cost-savings and increase quality-adjusted-life-years when added to 310 the current SOC. A separate scenario analysis adjusts our model to further favor the null 311 hypothesis by eliminating any iron- or RBC-associated adverse events (which patients in the 312 SOC have greater exposure to), finding that bevacizumab remains a cost-saving 313 intervention even in this case. Finally, another strength of our model is its incorporation of a 314 societal cost perspective, through the quantification of wages and hours lost by patients and 315 caregivers to HHT-related care.

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317 We also recognize several limitations in our model. While our model is based on 318 prospectively collected health resource utilization data across multiple international centers, 319 the health resource utilization data from these same patients (i.e. intrapatient comparison) 320 prior to initiating bevacizumab was retrospective. Although it is subject to the typical 321 limitations of retrospective data collection, the data was directly pulled by investigators from 322 physician records over the past year. Second, these results only apply to HHT patients with 323 a strictly defined moderate to severe phenotype (see Appendix for clinical definition). We 324 also acknowledge that, on a population level, the severity of bleeding symptoms in HHT

325 generally increase with age, and older patients bear a significantly greater burden of disease 326 and subsequent degree of healthcare resources utilization compared to their younger 327 counterparts.<sup>10,53</sup> As such, the results of our one-way sensitivity analysis on age must be 328 carefully interpreted in this context - while severe symptoms (epistaxis and GI) can and 329 does occur in patients as young as 18, the majority of those experiencing moderate-to-330 severe bleeding are of an older age, where the base-case and scenario analyses are all 331 focused. Furthermore, alternative oral antiangiogenic agents that are currently under-332 investigated for the treatment of HHT-associated bleeding, including pomalidomide, are 333 outside the scope of this analysis.<sup>54,55</sup>

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335 Third, our model does not explore all the possible choices of IV iron supplementation 336 available to treat HHT-associated bleeding under the current SOC, although it specifically 337 targets the entire range by examining the lowest and highest cost products with consistent 338 results across all tested formulations. Fourth, all economic models are specific to their 339 specific country context and this model is specific to the United States' context. Analyses of 340 bevacizumab for HHT outside of the US context may not reach the same conclusion given 341 different country-specific costs. Fifth, since there is no on-treatment specific utility data for 342 patients with HHT undergoing bevacizumab treatment, we estimated an incremental utility 343 increase for patients on bevacizumab based on their degree of anemia improvement rather 344 than direct patient reporting of quality of life, although we addressed this limitation in 345 extensive sensitivity analyses. Future, longitudinal quality-of-life studies of systemic 346 bevacizumab treatment in the HHT patient population will reflect an even more accurate 347 depiction of its utility and impact on individuals living with HHT, although the investment 348 into these would be first best adjudicated with value-of-information analysis, as was 349 recently done in the evaluation of potential future studies for study prioritization in the 350 peripartum thromboprophylaxis space.<sup>56</sup>

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352 In summary and to the best of our knowledge, we performed the first cost-effectiveness 353 analysis of systemic bevacizumab therapy in HHT. We found that, regardless of the 354 willingness-to-pay, the addition of longitudinal, intravenous bevacizumab to the current 355 standard of care improves the quality-adjusted life expectancy of patients with HHT and 356 appears to be a cost-saving intervention, as compared to the current standard of care 357 alone. Separately, bevacizumab also saves patients at least 133 hours in HHT-specific care 358 per year lived in the form of reduced RBC transfusions, IV iron infusions, emergency 359 department visits, hospitalizations, and hemostatic procedures. In the United States' 360 context, these results strongly suggest that bevacizumab tier placement should be favorably 361 prioritized across all commercial and public funders in the care of individuals living with 362 HHT.

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# Table 1 Base-case input parameters and probability distributions.

Input Parameter	Value	Probability Distribution Used in Probabilistic Sensitivity Analysis	Data Source
Cohort age at start	63	Fixed	InHIBIT-Bleed
Discount rate	0.03	Fixed	Sanders et al.
Patient weight, mean (kg)	84.05	Fixed	CDC

Mean US hourly wage (USD)	34.10	Fixed	US Bureau of Labor Statistics
Hazard ratio of mortality, HHT : non- HHT individuals	2.0	Fixed	Donaldson et al.
Median number of RBC units transfused, 6 months pre-treatment	9	γ (0.9138, 0.06741)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Median number of RBC units transfused, first 6 months on Bev	0	γ (0.3832, 0.1571)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Median number of iron units infused, 6 months pre-treatment	8	γ (1.680, 0.1472)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Median number of iron units infused, first 6 months on Bev	2	γ (0.6645, 0.2086)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Mean number of ED visits or admissions, 6 months pre-treatment	0.96	β-PERT (0.48, 1.44)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Mean number of ED visits or admissions, first 6 months on Bev	0.30752	β-PERT (0.1538, 0.4613)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Mean number of endoscopic hemostatic procedures, 6 months pre-treatment	0.60123	β-PERT (0.3006, 0.9018)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Mean number of endoscopic hemostatic procedures, first 6 months on Bev	0.06641	β-PERT (0.0332, 0.0996)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Mean number of ENT hemostatic procedures, 6 months pre-treatment	0.47573	β-PERT (0.0996, 0.7135)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Mean number of ENT hemostatic procedures, first 6 months on Bev	0.14740	β-PERT (0.073698002, 0.221094006)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Transition Probabilities			012589
Probability of major AE leading to Bev discontinuation, first year of treatment	0.02363	β-PERT (0.0118, 0.0354)	InHIBIT-Bleed
Assumed of major AE leading to Bev discontinuation, all subsequent years	0.00239	β-PERT (0.001194, 0.003582)	Assumed - 10% of first
Probability of Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction	4.55E-05	β-PERT (2.27E-05, 6.82E-05)	Goel et al.

Probability of Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload	0.000111	β-PERT (5.56E-05, 1.67E-04)	Goel et al.
Probability of Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury	1.67E-05	β-PERT (8.33E-06, 2.50E-05)	Goel et al.
Probability of Post- transfusion Purpura	7.69E-08	β-PERT (3.85E-08, 1.15E-07)	Goel et al.
Probability of Ferric Carboxymaltose Anaphylaxis	3.31E-05	β-PERT (1.66E-05, 4.97E-05)	Durup et al.
Probability of Ferumoxytol Anaphylaxis	3.41E-04	β-PERT (1.71E-04, 5.12E-04)	Wang et al.
Probability of Iron Dextran Anaphylaxis	7.90E-06	β-PERT (3.95E-06, 1.19E-05)	Durup et al.
Probablity of Death from DHTR	0.038	β-PERT (0.019, 0.057)	Davies et al., 2006
Probability of Death from TACO	0.084	β-PERT (0.042, 0.13)	2021 SHOT Report
Probability of Death from TRALI	0.075	β-PERT (0.0375, 0.1125)	Popovsky
Probability of Death from PTP	0.046	β-PERT (0.023, 0.069)	Davies et al., 2006
Probability of Death due to Ferric Carboxymaltose Anaphylaxis	0.002	β-PERT (0.001, 0.003)	Trumbo et al.
Probability of Death due to Ferumoxytol Anaphylaxis	0.13	β-PERT (0.067, 0.20)	Trumbo et al.
Probability of Death due to Iron Dextran Anaphylaxis	0.045	β-PERT (0.022, 0.068)	Trumbo et al.
Utility Values			vances
Utility of HHT disease state	Age- dependent	β-PERT	Zarrabeitia et al.
Utility increment of anemia improvement (severe -> moderate)	0.05	β-PERT (0.045, 0.055)	GBD 2019
Estimated disutility of major AE due to Bev	-0.00261	β-PERT (-0.00288, -0.00235)	Assumed
Disutility of Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury	-0.01538	β-PERT (-0.01692, -0.0547)	van Eerd et al.
Disutility of Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction	-0.00608	β-PERT (-0.00668, -0.00547)	Lloyd et al.

Disutility of Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload	-0.01538	β-PERT (-0.01692, -0.0547)	van Eerd et al.
Disutility of Post- transfusion Purpura	-0.00885	β-PERT (-0.00973, -0.00796)	Di Minno et al.
Disutility of Iron Anaphylaxis	-0.000740	β-PERT (-0.000814, -0.000665)	Shaker et al.
Costs (USD)			
Cost of Bevacizumab / mg	7.0752	Fixed	HCPCS 44363
Cost per unit of RBC	135.52	Fixed	HCPCS P9021
Cost of Ferric Carboxymaltose per infusion	826.5	Fixed	HCPCS J1439
Cost of Ferumoxytol per infusion	283.56	Fixed	HCPCS Q0138
Cost of Iron Dextran per infusion	33.16	Fixed	HCPCS J1750
Cost of ED visit	381.61	γ (16, 0.04192)	HCPCS 99284
Cost of hospital admission	37266.09	γ (16, 0.0004293)	Harder et al.
Cost of endoscopic hemostatic procedure	1412.25	γ (16, 0.01133)	HCPCS 44391
Cost of ENT hemostatic procedure	8501.26	γ (16, 0.001882)	Rudmik et al., Healthcare Bluebook
Cost of Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction treatment	1537	γ (16, 0.01041)	Janssen et al.
Cost of Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload treatment	4830	γ (16, 0.003313)	Janssen et al.
Cost of Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury	9959	γ (16, 0.001607)	Janssen et al.
Cost of Post-transfusion Purpura treatment	2536.58	γ (16, 0.006308)	Davies et al.
Cost of Ferric Carboxymaltose Anaphylaxis treatment	2124.61	γ (16, 0.007531)	Trumbo et al.
Cost of Ferumoxytol Anaphylaxis treatment	9491.83	γ (16, 0.001686)	Trumbo et al.
Cost of Iron Dextran Anaphylaxis treatment	10016.19	γ (16, 0.001597)	Trumbo et al.



# Table 2 Base-case results and net monetary benefits for bevacizumab plus the standard-of-care (SOC) versus SOC alone, from a US health system and societal perspective. Bevacizumab is a cost-saving treatment strategy that accrues net monetary benefits.

Legend: QALY = quality-adjusted life-year; USD = United States dollar

Strategy	Cost (USD)	Incremental Cost (USD)	Effectiveness (QALY)	Incremental Effectiveness (QALY)	Net Monetary Benefit (USD)	Incremental Net Monetary Benefit [95% Credible Interval] (USD)	
	Base Case Model (Health System Perspective)						
Bevacizumab	428,000		9.3	1.0	973,000	433,000	
Standard of						[215,000 -	
Care	699,000	271,000	8.3		540,000	942,000]	
Base Case Model (Societal Perspective)							
Bevacizumab	435,000		9.3	1.0	967,000	444,000	
Standard of						[217,000 -	
Care	717,000	281,000	8.3		523,000	973,000]	



# Table 3 Scenario analyses base-case results and net monetary benefits using alternative IV iron supplementation (Ferumoxytol and Iron Dextran). Bevacizumab

remains a cost-saving treatment with added net monetary benefit regardless of choice of iron supplementation.

Legend: QALY = quality-adjusted life-year; USD = United States dollar

Strategy	Cost (USD)	Incremental Cost (USD)	Effectiveness (QALY)	Incremental Effectiveness (QALY)	Net Monetary Benefit (USD)	Incremental Net Monetary Benefit [95% Credible Interval] (USD)		
		Health S	ystem Perspect	ive - Ferumoxy	tol			
Bevacizumab	407,000		9.3	1.0	994,000	354,000		
Standard of Care	598,000	191,000	8.3		640,000	[181,000 - 652,000]		
	Societal Perspective - Ferumoxytol							
Bevacizumab	414,000		9.3	1.0	987,000	364,000		
Standard of Care	615,000	201,000	8.3		623,000	[182,000 - 680,000]		
Health System Perspective - Iron Dextran								
Bevacizumab	398,000		9.3	1.0	1,003,000	316,000		
Standard of Care	552,000	154,000	8.3		687,000	[147,000 - 567,000]		
Societal Perspective - Iron Dextran								

Bevacizumab	405,000		9.3	1.0	996,000	326,000
Standard of						[151,000 -
Care	569,000	164,000	8.3		670,000	592,000]

# **Table 4 Scenario analysis base-case results and net monetary benefits assuming no adverse events from iron or RBC supplementation.** Bevacizumab remains a costsaving treatment even when the rates of adverse events from iron and RBC supplementation are reduced to zero.

Legend: QALY = quality-adjusted life-year; USD = United States dollar

Strategy	Cost (USD)	Incremental Cost (USD)	Effectiveness (QALY)	Incremental Effectiveness (QALY)	Net Monetary Benefit (USD)	Incremental Net Monetary Benefit [95% Credible Interval] (USD)	
Base Case Model (Health System Perspective)							
Bevacizumab	428,000		9.3	1.0	973,000	432,000	
Standard of Care	700,000	272,000	8.3		541,000	[215,000 - 941,000]	
Base Case Model (Societal Perspective)							
Bevacizumab	435,000		9.3	1.0	967,000	443,000	
Standard of Care	717,000	282,000	8.3		524,000	[218,000 - 973,000]	



# Figures Legends

# Figure 1 One-way sensitivity analysis tornado diagram demonstrating net

**monetary benefits produced with bevacizumab compared to SOC alone.** Each row illustrates analysis results when one parameter is varied across its range. Parameters that produced >10% change in the incremental net monetary benefit (iNMB) when varied were included. Ranges utilized in analyses are detailed in Table 1. Blue denotes iNMB changes associated with lower values, while red denotes iNMB changes associated with higher values. Legend: WTP = willingness-to-pay; EV = expected value; SOC = standard-of-care

Figure 2 Cost-effectiveness acceptability curve of probabilistic sensitivity analysis for bevacizumab added to the SOC versus SOC alone, across a range of willingness-to-pay thresholds. Ranges utilized in analysis are detailed in Table 1.



# Figure 1 One-way sensitivity analysis tornado diagram demonstrating net monetary benefits produced with bevacizumab compared to SOC alone. Each row

illustrates analysis results when one parameter is varied across its range. Parameters that produced >10% change in the incremental net monetary benefit (iNMB) when varied were included. Ranges utilized in analyses are detailed in Table 1. Blue denotes iNMB changes associated with lower values, while red denotes iNMB changes associated with higher values. Legend: WTP = willingness-to-pay; EV = expected value; SOC = standard-of-care



SOC versus SOC alone, across a range of willingness-to-pay thresholds. Ranges utilized in analysis are detailed in Table Figure 2 Cost-effectiveness acceptability curve of probabilistic sensitivity analysis for bevacizumab added to the . ....

