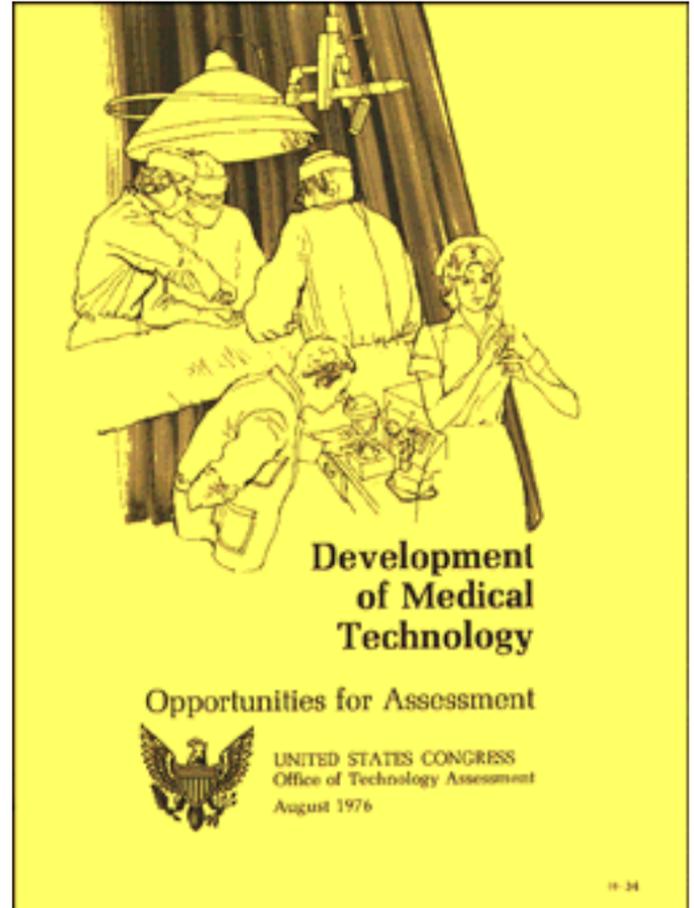


*Development of Medical Technology:
Opportunities for Assessment*

August 1976

NTIS order #PB-258117



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

EMILIO O. DADDARIO
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August 16, 1976

The Honorable Harrison A. Williams, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Office of Technology Assessment, we are pleased to forward a report: Development of Medical Technology: Opportunities for Assessment.

The report was prepared by the Office of Technology Assessment with the assistance of a panel of experts conversant with the development of medical technology and the problems raised by new medical technology. This is in accordance with your request to the Office of Technology Assessment dated February 6, 1975.

This report is being made available to your Committee in accordance with Public Law 92-484.

Sincerely,


Olin E. Teague
Chairman of the Board

Sincerely,


Clifford P. Case
Vice Chairman of the Board

Enclosure

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August 16, 1976

The Honorable Olin E. Teague
Chairman of the Board
Office of Technology Assessment
Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to the request of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, I am pleased to submit a report entitled: Development of Medical Technology: Opportunities for Assessment.

The Office of Technology Assessment was assisted in the preparation of this report by an Advisory Panel on Biomedical Research and Medical Technology, chaired by Dr. Eugene A. Stead of the Duke University Medical Center.

The report describes the impacts of medical technology, suggests some questions which could be applied to new medical technologies to assess their impacts, and presents options for a Federal program in medical technology assessment. It is anticipated that the report will be of use to Congressional committees concerned with the Federal role in medical technology development.

Sincerely,



EMILIO Q. DADDARIO
Director

Enclosure

PREFACE

The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) was asked to examine current Federal policies and existing medical practices to determine whether a reasonable amount of justification should be provided before costly new medical technologies and procedures are put into general use. (Request from the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on behalf of the Subcommittee on Health, Feb. 6, 1975.) This area of study was endorsed by the OTA Board on April 22, 1975.

This broad issue was discussed by the OTA Health Program Advisory Committee on September 16 and November 3, 1975. Recognizing that the issues related to medical technology are complex, the Advisory Committee recommended dividing the subject into a series of discrete studies. Because it was of interest to Congress, it was decided that the first study should deal with the development of medical technologies. Specifically, the Subcommittee on Health asked OTA to consider—

- (1) The need for assessing the social impacts of each new medical technology during the research-and-development process;
- (2) The kinds of questions that might be asked in such an assessment; and
- (3) By whom and at what point in the research-and-development process assessments could be conducted.

These issues were of particular interest in light of the recent report by the President's Biomedical Research Panel, charged with evaluating biomedical research policy. The OTA report was completed in time to be considered along with the Presidential Panel's findings and other relevant items at oversight hearings on the National Institutes of Health held by the Subcommittee in mid-1976.

This assessment was carried out by staff of the OTA Health Assessment Program with the assistance of the Advisory Panel on Biomedical Research and Medical Technology. This report and the policy alternatives it presents identify a range of viewpoints and do not necessarily reflect the judgment of any individual.