

Abstract: Consider a planner who has to decide whether or not to introduce a new policy to a certain population of interest, but has limited knowledge on the policy's causal impact due to the lack of credible evidence for this population. She instead has access to the publicized results of the intervention studies performed for similar policies on different populations. How should she make use of and aggregate these existing evidence to make her policy decision? Building on the perspective of "patient-centered meta-analysis" proposed by Manski (2020 "Towards Credible Patient-Centered Meta-Analysis", *Epidemiology*), we formulate the planner's problem as a statistical decision problem with a social welfare objective of the population, and solve for an optimal aggregation rule under the minimax-regret criterion. We investigate its analytical properties and welfare performance, and compare with the plug-in based decision rules based on meta-regression or stylized mean-squared-error optimal prediction. We apply our rule to decide adoption of an active labor market policy based on the 14 randomized control trial studies performed in 8 different countries.