

Abstract

This doctoral thesis examines the influence of structural and specific factors on availability and usage of large-scale equipment for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes in German hospitals. It is based on three data sets, using econometric methods.

The focus of the investigation is both on public funding and structural differences (e.g. population density, number of hospital-beds per capita) as well as additional hospital-related factors, such as the ownership or the size of the hospital/department and their respective influences on the availability and usage of large-scale equipment.

The results of this investigation present first conclusions on the investment behaviours of German hospitals. Basically they show a significant influence of the size of the hospital as well as the department for the availability and usage of large-scale equipment. The private ownership of hospitals is positively correlated with availability of large-scale equipment in panel data; however this effect cannot be confirmed in the analysis of cross sectional data.

The structural differences can be demonstrated for individual cases. Systematic interrelations, however, between regional differences and availability/usage could not reliably be validated.