Paying for technology and the cost of ignoring opportunity costs: 
*There is no free lunch*

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In all countries health-care costs keep going up. Approximately 50% of the increase is due to the acquisition of new technologies (e.g., the drugs, devices and procedures used by health professionals).

In Canada most new technologies are purchased by hospitals, and mostly paid for from hospitals’ budgets. How much we spend this way is unknown. Whatever it is, it is currently increasing (e.g., at the McGill University Health Centre it increases by about $1.5 million each year). This is new expenditure not reimbursed by government, so it comes at the expense of other hospital operations (e.g., beds, supplies, salaries, etc.).

Carried out year after year, this has to lead to a (completely unplanned) reduction of capacity and quality, prolonged wait times and poorer hospital hygiene. If all Canadian hospitals function the same way, this must be a significant cause of the wait time problem. Even popular media outlets are reporting on the problem (e.g., see http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2010/07/18/ont-hospitals.html).