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Article

Premiums for Long-Term Care Insurance Packages: Sensitivity with Respect to Biometric Assumptions

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Abstract: Long-term care insurance (LTCI) covers are rather recent products, in the framework of health insurance. It follows that specific biometric data are scanty; pricing and reserving problems then arise because of difficulties in the choice of appropriate technical bases. Different benefit structures imply different sensitivity degrees with respect to changes in biometric assumptions. Hence, an accurate sensitivity analysis can help in designing LTCI products and, in particular, in comparing stand-alone products to combined products, *i.e.*, packages including LTCI benefits and other lifetime-related benefits. Numerical examples show, in particular, that the stand-alone cover is much riskier than all of the LTCI combined products that we have considered. As a consequence, the LTCI stand-alone cover is a highly “absorbing” product as regards capital requirements for solvency purposes.

Keywords: long-term care insurance; LTCI; biometric functions; multi-state models; Markov models; mortality laws; mortality of disabled people

1. Introduction and Motivation

Long-term care insurance (LTCI) products deserve, in the framework of insurances of the person, special attention. Actually, on the one hand, LTCI provides benefits of remarkable interest in the current demographic and social scenario, and on the other, LTCI covers are “difficult” products. We note in particular the following aspects (see, e.g., [1]).

- In many countries, the shares of the elderly population are rapidly growing because of increasing life expectancy and low fertility rates.
- Household sizes are progressively reducing, and this causes a lack of assistance and care services provided to old members of the family inside the family itself.
- LTCI covers are rather recent products, and consequently, experience data are scanty; pricing and reserving problems then arise because of difficulties in the choice of appropriate technical bases.
- Significant safety loadings may be charged to policyholders, because of uncertainty in the biometric assumptions.
- High premiums (in particular due to safety loadings) constitute an obstacle to the diffusion of these products and especially stand-alone LTCI covers, which only provide “protection”.

The remarkable interest in LTCI products has stimulated many scientific and technical contributions to this topic. The reader can refer to Chapter 3 of [1] for a compact description of the main LTCI products and the related packaging possibilities; see also the references therein. We note, in particular, that combining a life annuity and LTCI benefits can provide the annuitant with protection against the risk of outliving his/her assets available at retirement and, at the same time, against the extra risk originated by senescent disability. This subject is extensively dealt with in the

book by [2]. Other interesting contributions on packaging life annuities and LTCI benefits have been provided, in particular by [3–6]. In [7], life annuities combined with LTCI benefits are analyzed in the framework of guarantee structures in life annuity products. Including an LTCI cover, as a rider benefit, into a whole life insurance policy is discussed, for example, by [8].

As regards actuarial modeling issues, we cite the book by [9], where premium and reserve calculations for disability and LTCI benefits are described in the framework of Markov (and semi-Markov) models, in both a time-continuous and a time-discrete context.

It is worth noting some critical issues in the choice of an appropriate stochastic model for LTCI covers (as well as for combined products also including lifetime-related benefits). The following points should be carefully considered:

1. whether to allow or not for the inception-dependence of some probabilities (namely, the probability of recovery (see also Point 2 below) and the probability of death), which in the case of dependence are functions of both the insured's current age and the time elapsed since the LTC claim (that is, the senescent disability inception);
2. whether to take into account or not the possibility of recovery from LTC states.

The following aspects should in particular be stressed, as they can suggest appropriate modeling choices, consistent with data availability.

1. Inception dependence calls for a semi-Markov setting (instead of a Markov setting). Further, detailed statistical evidence is needed in order to estimate probabilities depending on both the attained age and the time elapsed since disability inception. Conversely, adopting a Markov model can lead to biased evaluations for short-duration disability. However, senescent disability is typically chronic, or anyway long lasting, so that significant biases should not be caused by a Markov setting. Further, it is interesting to note that a semi-Markov dependence structure can also be implemented within a Markov setting, via an appropriate redefinition of the state space; an interesting example is provided by the so-called Dutch model for disability annuities, described by [10].
2. The prevailing chronic character of the LTC disability suggests disregarding the recovery possibility. Indeed, the frequency of recovery is particularly low if the benefit eligibility is restricted to severe LTC conditions. Of course, this results in a simpler Markov model.

Recent literature witnesses various choices as regards the modeling issues mentioned above. Semi-Markov models, and hence, inception-dependent probabilities, have been used in particular by [11,12]. Experience data, which can underpin inception-select probabilities (and, in particular, inception-select mortality), are presented and discussed by [13]. Conversely, Markov models have been adopted by [3,8,14,15].

Various models for representing the extra-mortality of disabled people, either allowing for inception-dependence or not, are reviewed by [16].

While managing a portfolio of policies in the area of the insurances of the person, the insurer takes several risks, in particular biometric risks, *i.e.*, related to mortality, disability, *etc.* For each risk, various components can be recognized and, in particular, the risk of random fluctuations (of mortality, disability, *etc.*) around the relevant expected values and the risk of systematic deviations from the expected values. As is well known, the former is diversifiable via pooling, whereas the latter is undiversifiable via pooling, and its impact is larger when the portfolio size is larger.

The risk of systematic deviations is frequently originated by uncertainty in the technical bases (*i.e.*, assumptions regarding mortality, disability, *etc.*, and the related trends).

This paper focuses on the impact of uncertainty in the technical bases, which must be adopted when pricing and reserving for LTCI policies. A sensitivity analysis will be performed, in order to assess the change in expected present values of benefits when changing:

- the assumptions about senescent disability, in terms of the probability of entering the LTC state(s);

- the age-pattern of mortality of people in LTC state(s).

The sensitivity analysis will be performed starting from the biometric assumptions proposed by [17,18]. Both the LTC stand-alone cover and some LTC combined products will be addressed, and the advantages provided by packaging LTC benefits together with lifetime-related benefits (*i.e.*, conventional life annuities and death benefits) will be checked.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we describe the basic long-term care insurance products, whereas Section 3 focuses on a simple actuarial model for premium calculation. Formulae for premiums and numerical examples are provided in Section 4. The sensitivity analysis is the object of Section 5, which constitutes the core of the paper. Some final remarks in Section 6 conclude the paper.

We stress that the paper does not aim to provide a methodological innovation. Indeed, the theoretical framework is a standard one. Conversely, the paper, adopting an empirical approach, presents and discusses numerical results, which can help in finding appropriate product designs, aiming to mitigate the impact of risks arising from table or parameter uncertainty.¹

2. Long-Term Care Insurance Products

Long-term care insurance (LTCI) provides the insured with financial support, while he/she needs nursing and/or medical care because of chronic (or long-lasting) conditions or ailments.

Several types of benefits can be provided (in particular: fixed-amount annuities, care expense reimbursement). The benefit trigger is usually given either by claiming for nursing and/or medical assistance (together with a sanitary ascertainment) or by assessment of the individual disability, according to some predefined metrics, *e.g.*, the Activities of Daily Living (ADL) scale or the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) scale; see, for example, [1] and the references therein. We note that, in different insurance markets, different criteria for the LTCI benefit eligibility are adopted. This can complicate the problem of choosing, for a given LTCI product, reliable statistical data concerning the senescent disablement and mortality of disabled people.

2.1. LTCI Products: A Classification

Long-term care insurance products can be classified as follows:

- products that pay out benefits with a *predefined amount* (usually, a lifelong annuity benefit); in particular:
 - a *fixed-amount* benefit;
 - a *degree-related* (or *graded*) benefit, *i.e.*, a benefit, whose amount is graded according to the degree of disability, that is the severity of the disability itself (for example, assessed according to an ADL or IADL scale);
- products that provide reimbursement (usually partial) of nursing and medical expenses, *i.e.*, *expense-related* benefits;
- *care service* benefits (for example, provided in the U.S. by the Continuing Care Retirement Communities; see [1] and the references therein).

In what follows, we only address LTCI products that provide benefits with a predefined amount.

2.2. Fixed-Amount and Degree-Related Benefits

A classification of LTCI products that pay out benefits with a predefined amount is proposed in Figure 1; the shaded boxes refer to the insurance covers considered in the sensitivity analysis.

¹ Part of the contents of this paper was presented at the CEPAR Long-Term Care and Longevity Insurance Workshop (hosted by CEPAR and PwC), Sydney, 10 December 2014. A provisional version of the paper has been published in the CEPAR Working Papers Series; see [19].

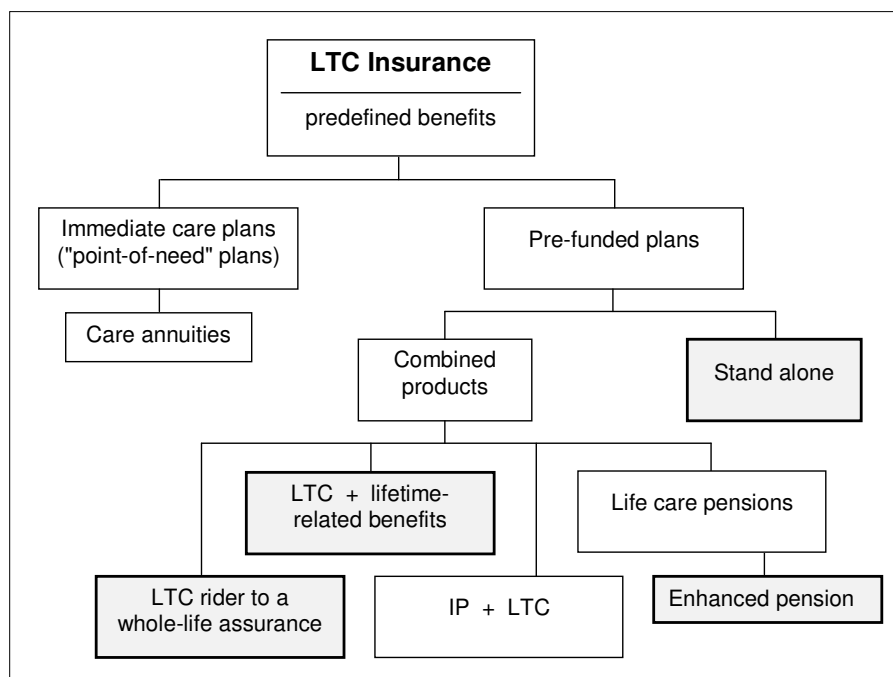


Figure 1. A classification of LTCI products providing predefined benefits (source: [1]).

Immediate care plans, or *care annuities*, relate to individuals already affected by severe disability (that is, in “point of need”), and then consist of:

- the payment of a single premium;
- an immediate life annuity, whose annual benefit may be graded according to the disability severity.

Hence, care annuities are aimed at seriously impaired individuals, in particular persons who have already started to incur LTC costs. The premium calculation is based on assumptions of short life expectancy. However, the insurer may limit the individual longevity risk by offering a limited term annuity, namely a temporary life annuity.

Pre-funded plans consist of:

- the accumulation phase, during which periodic premiums are (usually) paid; as an alternative, a single premium can be paid (of course, while the insured is in the healthy state);
- the payout period, during which LTC benefits (usually consisting of a life annuity) are paid in the case of LTC need.

Several products belong to the class of pre-funded plans. A *stand-alone LTC cover* provides an annuity benefit, possibly graded according to an ADL or IADL score. This cover can be financed by a single premium, by temporary periodic premiums or lifelong periodic premiums. Of course, premiums are waived in the case of an LTC claim. This insurance product only provides a “risk cover”, as there is, of course, no certainty in future LTC need and the consequent payment of benefits.

A number of *combined products* have been designed, mainly aiming at reducing the relative weight of the risk component by introducing a “saving” component, or by adding the LTC benefits to an insurance product with a significant saving component. Some examples follow.

LTC benefits can be added as a *rider to a whole-life assurance* policy (and, hence, can constitute an incentive against surrendering the policy). For example, a monthly benefit of, say, 2% of the sum assured is paid in the case of an LTC claim, for 50 months at most. The death benefit is consequently reduced and disappears if all of the 50 monthly benefits are paid. Thus, the (temporary)

LTC annuity benefit is simply given by an *acceleration* of (part of) the death benefit. The LTC cover can be complemented by an additional deferred LTC annuity (financed by an appropriate premium increase), which will start immediately after the possible exhaustion of the sum assured (that is, if the LTC claim lasts for more than 50 months) and will terminate at the insured's death.

An insurance package can include LTC benefits combined with *lifetime-related benefits*, i.e., benefits only depending on the insured's survival and death. For example, the following benefits can be packaged:

1. a lifelong LTC annuity (from the LTC claim on);
2. a deferred life annuity (e.g., from age 80), while the insured is not in the LTC disability state;
3. a lump sum benefit on death, which can alternatively be given by:
 - (a) a fixed amount, stated in the policy;
 - (b) the difference (if positive) between a stated amount and the amount paid as Benefit 1 and/or Benefit 2.

We note that Item 2, i.e., the old-age deferred life annuity, provides protection against the individual longevity risk to people in good health conditions and then constitutes an ALDA (advanced life delayed annuity), proposed by [20].

Life care pensions (also called *life care annuities*) are life annuity products in which the LTC benefit is defined in terms of an uplift with respect to the basic pension b . In particular, the *enhanced pension* is a life care pension in which the uplift is financed by a reduction (with respect to the basic pension b) of the benefit paid while the policyholder is healthy. Thus, the reduced benefit b' is paid out as long as the retiree is healthy, while the uplifted benefit b'' will be paid in the case of an LTC claim (of course, $b' < b < b''$).

Finally, a *lifelong disability cover* can include:

- an income protection cover (IP; see, for example, [1] and the references therein) during the working period, that is during the accumulation period related to LTC benefits;
- an LTC cover during the retirement period.

3. The Model

In this section, we first describe multi-state models that can be adopted to represent “states” and “transitions” related to an LTCI cover. We then introduce the biometric functions that are needed to assign a stochastic structure to the multi-state model chosen for the following calculations. Actuarial values (i.e., expected present values) are then defined, and finally, technical bases are addressed.

3.1. Multi-State Models for LTCI

The multi-state model we have adopted for the empirical analysis simply consists of three states and three possible transitions (see Figure 2). The states are:

- a = active (i.e., healthy);
- i = incapacitated, or invalid (i.e., in the LTC state);
- d = died;

and the transitions are as follows:

- $a \rightarrow i$ = disablement (i.e., entering the LTC state);
- $a \rightarrow d$ = death from the active state;
- $i \rightarrow d$ = death from the LTC state.

Hence, just one LTC state has been considered, from which recovery is not allowed. See Section 1 for comments about this choice.

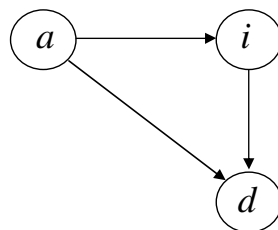


Figure 2. The three-state model.

Of course, more complex multi-state models can be considered, for example including two or more disability states (corresponding to more or less severe health conditions) to represent a degree-related benefit structure.

For a more detailed presentation of multi-state models for LTCI, the reader can refer to [1] and [9], where a time-continuous context is considered.

3.2. Biometric Functions

We refer to the three-state model shown in Figure 2. A Markov setting has been chosen; thus, no inception-dependence has been allowed for (for comments on this choice, see Section 1).

We define, for a healthy individual age x , the following one-year probabilities (the traditional actuarial notation has been adopted):

- p_x^{aa} = probability of being healthy at age $x + 1$;
- p_x^{ai} = probability of being an invalid at age $x + 1$;
- q_x^{aa} = probability of dying before age $x + 1$ from state a ;
- q_x^{ai} = probability of dying before age $x + 1$ from state i ;
- q_x^a = probability of dying before age $x + 1$;
- w_x = probability of becoming an invalid (disablement) before age $x + 1$.

For an invalid individual (*i.e.*, an individual in the state of LTC) of age x , we consider the following one-year probabilities:

- p_x^i = probability of being alive (and an invalid) at age $x + 1$;
- q_x^i = probability of dying before age $x + 1$.

The following relations obviously hold:

$$q_x^a = q_x^{aa} + q_x^{ai} \quad (1)$$

$$p_x^{aa} = 1 - q_x^{aa} - w_x \quad (2)$$

$$p_x^i = 1 - q_x^i \quad (3)$$

$$w_x = p_x^{ai} + q_x^{ai} \quad (4)$$

The (usual) approximation:

$$q_x^{ai} = w_x \frac{q_x^i}{2} \quad (5)$$

has been assumed; in its turn, Equation (5) implies:

$$p_x^{ai} = w_x \left(1 - \frac{q_x^i}{2}\right) \quad (6)$$

From the one-year probabilities, the following multi-year probabilities can be immediately derived:

$${}_k p_x^{aa} = \prod_{h=0}^{k-1} p_{x+h}^{aa} \quad (7)$$

$${}_k p_x^i = \prod_{h=0}^{k-1} p_{x+h}^i \quad (8)$$

$${}_k p_x^{ai} = \sum_{h=1}^k \left[{}_{k-h} p_x^{aa} {}_{p_{x+k-h}^{ai}} {}_{h-1} p_{x+k-h+1}^i \right] \quad (9)$$

Of course, we have: ${}_0 p_x^{aa} = 1$, ${}_0 p_x^i = 1$ and ${}_0 p_x^{ai} = 0$.

3.3. Actuarial Values

Let v denote the annual discount factor. We define the following actuarial values (*i.e.*, expected present values). The usual actuarial notation is adopted.

- Actuarial value, for a healthy individual age x (*i.e.*, in state a), of a life annuity providing a benefit of one monetary unit per annum, payable at the policy anniversaries, while the individual is disabled (*i.e.*, in state i):

$$a_x^{ai} = \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} {}_{j-1} p_x^{aa} {}_{p_{x+j-1}^{ai}} v^j \ddot{a}_{x+j}^i \quad (10)$$

- Actuarial value, for a disabled individual age $x + j$, of a life annuity providing a benefit of one monetary unit per annum, payable at the policy anniversaries, while the individual is disabled:

$$\ddot{a}_{x+j}^i = \sum_{h=j}^{+\infty} v^{h-j} {}_{h-j} p_{x+j}^i \quad (11)$$

- Actuarial value, for a disabled individual age $x + j$, of a temporary life annuity providing a benefit of one monetary unit per annum, payable at the policy anniversaries, while the individual is disabled:

$$\ddot{a}_{x+j:s}^i = \sum_{h=j}^{j+s-1} v^{h-j} {}_{h-j} p_{x+j}^i \quad (12)$$

- Actuarial value, for a healthy individual age x , of a life annuity of one monetary unit per annum, payable at the policy anniversaries, while the individual is healthy:

$$\ddot{a}_x^{aa} = \sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} v^j {}_j p_x^{aa} \quad (13)$$

- Actuarial value, for a healthy individual age x , of a temporary life annuity of one monetary unit per annum, payable at the policy anniversaries, while the individual is healthy:

$$\ddot{a}_{x:r}^{aa} = \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} v^j {}_j p_x^{aa} \quad (14)$$

- Actuarial value, for a healthy individual age x , of a deferred life annuity of one monetary unit per annum, payable at the policy anniversaries, while the individual is healthy:

$${}_n | \ddot{a}_x^{aa} = \sum_{j=n}^{+\infty} v^j {}_j p_x^{aa} \quad (15)$$

3.4. Technical Bases

We assume that:

- q_x^{aa} is given by the first Heligman–Pollard law;
- w_x is expressed by a specific parametric law;
- $q_x^i = q_x^{aa} + \text{extra-mortality}$ (that is, an additive extra-mortality model is adopted).

The first Heligman–Pollard law is defined as follows:

$$\frac{q_x^{aa}}{1 - q_x^{aa}} = a^{(x+b)^c} + d e^{-e(\ln x - \ln f)^2} + g h^x \quad (16)$$

(see [21]).

The parameters have been assigned the numerical values given in Table 1. Some corresponding markers are shown in Table 2, in particular:

- the (remaining) expected lifetime, ${}^{\circ}e_x$, at various ages x ;
- the Lexis point, $x^{[L]}$, *i.e.*, the (old) age with the maximum probability of death for a newborn;
- the one-year probability of death, q_x , at various ages x .

We note that the parameter values have been chosen so that the resulting age pattern of mortality fits a projected market life table (that is, describing the mortality of healthy insured people), which incorporates a forecast of future mortality improvements, as can be argued looking at the expected lifetimes and the Lexis point (see Table 2).

Table 1. The first Heligman–Pollard law: parameters.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
0.00054	0.01700	0.10100	0.00014	10.72	18.67	2.00532×10^{-6}	1.13025

Table 2. The first Heligman–Pollard law: some markers.

${}^{\circ}e_0$	${}^{\circ}e_{40}$	${}^{\circ}e_{65}$	$x^{[L]}$	q_0	q_{40}	q_{80}
85.128	46.133	22.350	90	0.00682	0.00029	0.03475

The assumption proposed by [17] has been adopted for the one-year probability of disablement, that is:

$$w_x = \begin{cases} A + \frac{D - A}{1 + B^{C-x}} & \text{for females} \\ \left(A + \frac{D - A}{1 + B^{C-x}} \right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3} \exp \left(- \left(\frac{x - E}{4} \right)^2 \right) \right) & \text{for males} \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

The relevant parameters are given in Table 3. The function w_x (for males) is plotted in Figure 3.

Table 3. Parameters of the Rickayzen–Walsh model.

Parameter	Females	Males
A	0.0017	0.0017
B	1.0934	1.1063
C	103.6000	93.5111
D	0.9567	0.6591
E	n.a.	70.3002

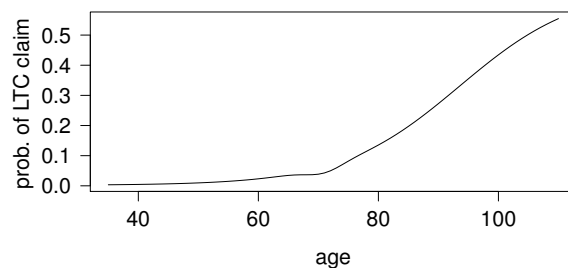


Figure 3. Function w_x (i.e., probability of entering the LTC state, as a function of the attained age x): males.

An additive extra-mortality model has been assumed to represent the mortality of disabled people. As suggested by [17], we have adopted the following formula:

$$q_x^{i(k)} = q_x^{[\text{standard}]} + \Delta(x, \alpha, k) \quad (18)$$

with:

$$\Delta(x, \alpha, k) = \frac{\alpha}{1 + 1.1^{50-x}} \frac{\max\{k - 5, 0\}}{5} \quad (19)$$

As regards the parameters and the related values, we note what follows.

- Parameter k expresses the LTC severity category, according to the OPCS scale (see [22]); in particular:

- $0 \leq k \leq 5$ denotes a less severe LTC states, with no impact on mortality;
- $6 \leq k \leq 10$ denotes a more severe LTC states, implying extra-mortality;

In the following calculations, we have assumed $k = 8$, that is a severe LTC state (so that the possibility of recovery can be disregarded). Hence, $q_x^i = q_x^{i(8)}$ for all x .

- According to [18], we have set $\alpha = 0.10$, as we have assumed $q^{[\text{standard}]} = q_x^{aa}$ (that is, the mortality of insured healthy people).

From the previous assumptions, it follows:

$$\Delta(x, 0.10, 8) = \frac{0.06}{1 + 1.1^{50-x}} \quad (20)$$

The age patterns of mortality for healthy people (i.e., the function q_x^{aa}) and for disabled people (i.e., the function q_x^i) are plotted in Figure 4. The underlying assumptions are given by the Heligman–Pollard law (see Equation (16) and Table 1) and the additive extra-mortality model (see Equations (18) and (20)).

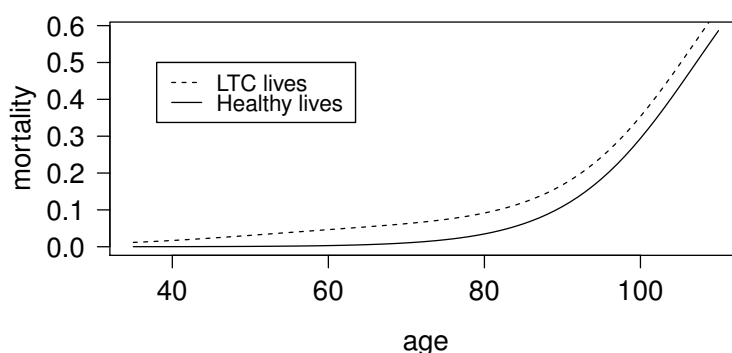


Figure 4. Functions q_x^{aa} and q_x^i (i.e., mortality of healthy lives and LTC lives, as functions of the attained age x): males.

In all of the numerical calculations in Section 4, we have assumed the interest rate to be 0.02, and hence, $v = 1.02^{-1}$; the biometric assumptions refer to males.

4. Premiums

We consider the following LTCI products (see Section 2.2 for the definitions of the relevant benefits):

1. Product P1: stand-alone LTC cover;
2. Product P2: LTC acceleration benefit in a whole-life assurance;
3. Product P3: LTC insurance package, including a deferred life annuity and a death benefit; in particular:
 - Product P3a: Package a (fixed death benefit);
 - Product P3b: Package b (decreasing death benefit);
4. Product P4: enhanced pension.

Some comments follow, concerning the choice of the products to be analyzed.

- First, we note that LTCI covers that provide expense reimbursement have been excluded from our analysis. Expense-related benefits can provide a good coverage of LTC needs, but the characteristics of the related insurance products and the relevant actuarial problems significantly differ from the features of the products providing predefined benefits. Indeed, random amounts of LTC expenses imply, on the one hand, specific actuarial models and, on the other, the presence of policy conditions (*i.e.*, fixed-percentage or fixed-amount deductible, limit amount, *etc.*) similar to those commonly adopted in non-life insurance. Finally, we note that the evaluation of expense-related benefits calls for an important collection of data, which, to some extent, are country specific and, hence, affected by a high degree of heterogeneity.
- As regards the LTCI products providing predefined benefits, we first note that two “extreme” products have been included in the analysis, *i.e.*, the stand-alone cover (Product P1) and the whole-life assurance with LTCI as an acceleration benefit (Product P2). While the former only aims at contributing to cover the LTC needs, the latter has an important savings component and a rather limited LTC coverage.
- The two remaining products either include a life annuity component (Product P2) or are “derived” from a life annuity or pension product, thus aiming at covering the individual longevity risk.
- Although other products are sold on various insurance markets, the products we are addressing represent important LTCI market shares, and at the same time, their simple structures ease the sensitivity analysis and the interpretation of the results.

According to the equivalence principle, the single premiums are given by the actuarial values of the benefits.

4.1. Product P1: LTCI as a Stand-Alone Cover

According to the notation adopted in Section 3.3, the single premium, for an annual benefit b payable in arrears, is given by:

$$\Pi_x^{[P1]} = b a_x^{ai} \quad (21)$$

and the annual level premiums by:

$$P_x^{[P1]} = \frac{\Pi_x^{[P1]}}{\ddot{a}_x^{aa}} \quad (22a)$$

$$P_{x:r}^{[P1]} = \frac{\Pi_x^{[P1]}}{\ddot{a}_{x:r}^{aa}} \quad (22b)$$

in the case of non-temporary or temporary premiums, respectively. Some numerical examples are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Product P1 (stand-alone); single premium $\Pi_x^{[P1]}$ and annual level premium $P_{xx}^{[P1]}$; $b = 100$.

Age x	Single Premium	Annual Level Premiums		
		$x + r = 65$	$x + r = 70$	$x + r = 75$
40	480.4308	26.77075	24.31464	22.83546
50	513.5436	43.53108	36.24584	32.41563
60	516.4653	113.69362	64.93099	49.83906
70	473.7323	—	—	109.89082

4.2. Product P2: LTCI as an Acceleration Benefit

Refer to a whole life assurance with sum assured C , payable at the end of the year of death. The acceleration benefit consists of a temporary LTC annuity with annual benefit C/s (this benefit could also be payable on a monthly basis, as mentioned in Section 2). The single premium, $\Pi_x^{[P2(s)]}$, of the whole life assurance with the LTC acceleration benefit is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_x^{[P2(s)]} = & C \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} {}_{j-1}p_x^{aa} q_{x+j-1}^a v^j \\ & + C \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} {}_{j-1}p_x^{aa} p_{x+j-1}^{ai} v^j \left[\frac{1}{s} \ddot{a}_{x+j;s}^i + \sum_{h=1}^{s-1} \left(1 - \frac{h}{s}\right) {}_{h-1}p_{x+j}^i q_{x+j+h-1}^i v^h \right] \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Conversely, the single premium for a (standard) whole life assurance is given by:

$$\Pi_x^{[WLA]} = C \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} ({}_{j-1}p_x^{aa} q_{x+j-1}^a + {}_{j-1}p_x^{ai} q_{x+j-1}^i) v^j \quad (24)$$

Table 5 provides some examples. We note that, for any given age x at policy issue, the higher is s , the lower is the single premium because of spreading the benefit over a longer period from the disability inception. In particular, if $s = 1$, then the whole amount C is paid as a lump sum, either at the end of the year of requiring LTC or at the end of the year of death. We also note that, assuming a zero interest rate, the single premium would be equal to C (whatever the value of s) as the payment of the benefit is sure, only the time and the cause of payment being random.

Table 5. Product P2 (whole life assurance with LTC acceleration benefit); single premiums $\Pi_x^{[WLA]}$ and $\Pi_x^{[P2(s)]}$; $C = 1000$.

Age x	Whole Life No Accel.	Whole Life with Acceleration Benefit				
		$s = 1$	$s = 2$	$s = 3$	$s = 4$	$s = 5$
40	471.5191	565.7242	561.1957	556.9116	552.8608	549.0326
50	560.2152	660.9139	655.7011	650.7873	646.1581	641.7995
60	654.6069	755.8798	750.0631	744.6104	739.5027	734.7218

4.3. Product P3: LTCI in Life Insurance Package

Package (a) provides the following benefits (see also Section 2.2):

- a life annuity with annual benefit b' , deferred n years, while the individual is healthy;
- an LTC annuity with annual benefit b'' ;
- a death benefit C .

The single premium, $\Pi_x^{[P3a(x+n)]}$, is given by:

$$\Pi_x^{[P3a(x+n)]} = b'_n \ddot{a}_x^{aa} + b'' a_x^{ai} + C \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} ({}_{j-1}p_x^{aa} q_{x+j-1}^a + {}_{j-1}p_x^{ai} q_{x+j-1}^i) v^j \quad (25)$$

Some numerical examples are provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Product P3a (Package a); single premium $\Pi_x^{[P3a(x+n)]}$; $C = 1000$, $b' = 50$, $b'' = 150$.

Age x	$x + n = 75$	$x + n = 80$	$x + n = 85$
40	1007.413	970.5772	955.9357
50	1146.305	1098.1236	1078.9723
60	1275.446	1206.1263	1178.5728
70	1409.858	1285.7893	1236.4738

Package (b) includes the following benefits (see also Section 2.2):

- a life annuity with annual benefit b' , deferred n years, while the individual is healthy;
- an LTC annuity with annual benefit b'' ;
- a death benefit given by $\max\{C - (z'b' + z''b''), 0\}$, where:

z' = number of annual payments b' ;
 z'' = number of annual payments b'' .

The single premium is then given by the following expression:

$$\Pi_x^{[P3b(x+n)]} = b'_n \ddot{a}_x^{aa} + b'' a_x^{ai} + \Pi_x^{[DB3b]} \quad (26)$$

where the quantity $\Pi_x^{[DB3b]}$ denotes the actuarial value of the death benefit. This quantity can be split into four terms, according to possible individual stories:

$$\Pi_x^{[DB3b]} = \Pi_x^{(1)} + \Pi_x^{(2)} + \Pi_x^{(3)} + \Pi_x^{(4)} \quad (27)$$

The four terms refer to the following mutually-exclusive stories.

1. Death in healthy state before time n :

$$\Pi_x^{(1)} = C \sum_{j=1}^n {}_{j-1}p_x^{aa} q_{x+j-1}^{aa} v^j \quad (28)$$

In this case, we have: $z' = z'' = 0$.

2. Death in healthy state after time n :

$$\Pi_x^{(2)} = \sum_{j=n+1}^{+\infty} {}_{j-1}p_x^{aa} q_{x+j-1}^{aa} \max\{C - (j-n)b', 0\} v^j \quad (29)$$

Then: $z' = j - n$, $z'' = 0$.

3. Death in LTC state, entered before time n :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_x^{(3)} = & \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^n {}_{j-1}p_x^{aa} q_{x+j-1}^{ai} C v^j}_{\text{death in the first LTC year} \Rightarrow \text{no LTC benefit paid}} \\ & + \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^n {}_{j-1}p_x^{aa} p_{x+j-1}^{ai} v^j \left[\sum_{h=1}^{+\infty} {}_{h-1}p_{x+j}^i q_{x+j+h-1}^i \max\{C - h b'', 0\} v^h \right]}_{\text{death in the second or the following LTC years} \Rightarrow \text{LTC benefits paid}} \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

In this case: $z' = 0$, $z'' = h$.

4. Death in the LTC state, entered after time n :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_x^{(4)} = & n p_x^{aa} v^n \left[\underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} {}_{j-1}p_{x+n}^{aa} q_{x+n+j-1}^{ai} \max\{C - j b', 0\} v^j}_{\text{death in the first LTC year} \Rightarrow \text{no LTC benefit paid}} \right. \\ & \left. + \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} {}_{j-1}p_{x+n}^{aa} p_{x+n+j-1}^{ai} v^j \left[\sum_{h=1}^{+\infty} {}_{h-1}p_{x+n+j}^i q_{x+n+j+h-1}^i \max\{C - (j b' + h b''), 0\} v^h \right]}_{\text{death in the second or the following LTC years} \Rightarrow \text{LTC benefits paid}} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

In this case, we have: $z' = j$, $z'' = h$.

Some numerical examples are provided in Table 7. We note that, for any age x and any deferment n , we find $\Pi_x^{[P3b(x+n)]} < \Pi_x^{[P3a(x+n)]}$ because of the different definition of the death benefit.

Table 7. Product 3b (Package b); single premium $\Pi_x^{[P3b(x+n)]}$; $C = 1000$, $b' = 50$, $b'' = 150$.

Age x	$x + n = 75$	$x + n = 80$	$x + n = 85$
40	713.8557	698.9712	694.7115
50	804.2394	784.7703	779.1985
60	883.1407	855.1300	847.1139
70	952.4602	902.3264	887.9789

4.4. Product 4: the Enhanced Pension

The single premium for a standard pension with annual benefit b is given by:

$$\Pi_x^{[SP(b)]} = b \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} {}_j p_x^a v^j = b \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} ({}_j p_x^{aa} + {}_j p_x^{ai}) v^j = b (a_x^{aa} + a_x^{ai}) \quad (32)$$

The single premium for a pension with annual benefits b' , b'' , respectively paid if the annuitant is either healthy or in the LTC state, is given by:

$$\Pi_x^{[P4(b', b'')]} = b' a_x^{aa} + b'' a_x^{ai} \quad (33)$$

In the case of an enhanced pension, we must have:

$$\Pi_x^{[P4(b', b'')]} = \Pi_x^{[SP(b)]} \quad (34)$$

and then:

$$b' a_x^{aa} + b'' a_x^{ai} = b (a_x^{aa} + a_x^{ai}) \quad (35)$$

From Equation (35), given b, b'' , we can calculate the reduced pension b' . Conversely, given b, b' , we can find the uplifted pension b'' . Some numerical examples are given in Table 8.

Table 8. Product P4 (enhanced pension); reduced benefit b' , in order to obtain a given LTC benefit b'' ($b = 100$).

Age x	$\Pi_x^{[P4(b',b'')]} = \Pi_x^{[SP(b)]}$	$b'' = 150$	$b'' = 200$	$b'' = 250$
60	1761.478	79.259	58.517	37.776
65	1522.646	75.824	51.649	27.473
70	1278.444	70.565	41.130	11.695

5. Sensitivity Analysis

In this section, we refer to the four LTCI products addressed in Section 4 and assess the sensitivity of the single premiums with respect to the assumptions concerning the probability of disablement and the extra-mortality.

Let $\Pi_x^{[PX]}(\delta, \lambda)$ denote the single premium of the LTCI product PX, with $X = 1, 2, 3$, according to the following assumptions:

- probability of entering the LTC state (*i.e.*, probability of disablement) $\bar{w}_x(\delta)$, defined as follows:

$$\bar{w}_x(\delta) = \delta w_x \quad (36)$$

where w_x is given by Equation (17), with parameters as specified in Table 3 for males;

- extra-mortality of people in the LTC state, defined as follows:

$$\bar{\Delta}(x; \lambda) = \lambda \Delta(x, 0.10, 8) = \frac{\lambda 0.06}{1 + 1.1^{50-x}} \quad (37)$$

(see Equation (20)); it follows that the mortality of disabled people is given by:

$$q_x^i(\lambda) = q_x^{aa} + \bar{\Delta}(x; \lambda) \quad (38)$$

we note that $\lambda = 0$ means the absence of extra-mortality.

As regards the product P4, let $b'(\delta, \lambda)$ denote the amount of the reduced pension that meets a given uplifted pension b'' (for a given value of b), according to the assumptions expressed by δ and λ .

To ease the comparisons, we define for the LTCI products P1, P2 and P3 the “normalized” single premium, that is the ratio:

$$\rho_x^{[PX]}(\delta, \lambda) = \frac{\Pi_x^{[PX]}(\delta, \lambda)}{\Pi_x^{[PX]}(1, 1)} \quad (39)$$

whereas for the product P4, with given b and b'' , we define the ratio:

$$\rho_x^{[P4]}(\delta, \lambda) = \frac{b'(1, 1)}{b'(\delta, \lambda)} \quad (40)$$

For all of the products, we first perform a “marginal” analysis, by analyzing the behavior of the functions:

$$\Pi_x^{[PX]}(\delta, 1) \text{ for } X = 1, 2, 3; \quad b'(\delta, 1); \quad \rho_x^{[PX]}(\delta, 1) \text{ for } X = 1, 2, 3, 4$$

to assess the sensitivity with respect to the disablement assumption (Section 5.1) and the functions:

$$\Pi_x^{[PX]}(1, \lambda) \text{ for } X = 1, 2, 3; \quad b'(1, \lambda); \quad \rho_x^{[PX]}(1, \lambda) \text{ for } X = 1, 2, 3, 4$$

to assess the sensitivity with respect to the mortality assumption (Section 5.2).

Some results of a “joint” sensitivity analysis are finally presented (Section 5.3).

The following comments may be helpful in understanding the choice of the intervals for the parameters λ and δ and the impact of parameter values other than one. First, we note that, intuitively, the actuarial values of payments linked to LTC would increase as the probability of entering into LTC increases and would reduce as the extra-mortality from the LTC state increases. If an LTC benefit is added as a rider to accelerate insurance payments in whole-life assurance, the certainty of the payment implies that the actuarial value would be less sensitive relative to a similar LTC payment that is uncertain.

As regards the numerical values of the parameter δ , we in particular note that values lower than one (say, $\delta = 0.5$) can express a realistic estimate of the probability of becoming disabled, since only severe LTC states are considered to qualify the insured as eligible for LTCI benefits.

The parameter λ affects the extra-mortality of the disabled individuals. While parameter values close to two can represent a realistic estimate of the mortality of people in very severe health conditions, values lower than one lead to prudential actuarial valuations ($\lambda = 0$ representing, of course, the unrealistic absence of extra-mortality).

5.1. Disablement Assumption

Some results of sensitivity analysis with respect to disablement assumption are shown in Tables 9–12, in terms of single premiums, normalized single premiums and reduced benefit in the enhanced pension.

From the numerical results, we immediately recognize the stand-alone LTCI product, *i.e.*, Product P1, as the one with the highest sensitivity with respect to the disablement assumption. This (rather intuitive) result is also evident in graphical terms, as shown by Figure 5. We note, in particular, the dramatic impact of a possible underestimation of the probability of disablement, expressed by $\delta < 1$ (even excluding non-realistic underestimations, which could be represented by, say, $0 \leq \delta < 0.2$).

Table 9. Product P1 (stand-alone); $x = 50, b = 100$.

δ	$\Pi_{50}^{[P1]}(\delta, 1)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P1]}(\delta, 1)$
0.0	0.00000	0.0000000
0.1	97.44457	0.1897494
0.2	176.07799	0.3428686
0.3	241.25240	0.4697798
0.4	296.47515	0.5773125
0.5	344.12555	0.6700999
0.6	385.86840	0.7513839
0.7	422.90118	0.8234961
0.8	456.10675	0.8881558
0.9	486.15044	0.9466585
1.0	513.54361	1.0000000
1.1	538.68628	1.0489592
1.2	561.89632	1.0941550
1.3	583.42997	1.1360865
1.4	603.49644	1.1751610
1.5	622.26854	1.2117151
1.6	639.89052	1.2460296
1.7	656.48397	1.2783412
1.8	672.15229	1.3088514
1.9	686.98406	1.3377327
2.0	701.05581	1.3651339

Table 10. Product P2 (acceleration benefit); $x = 50, C = 1000$.

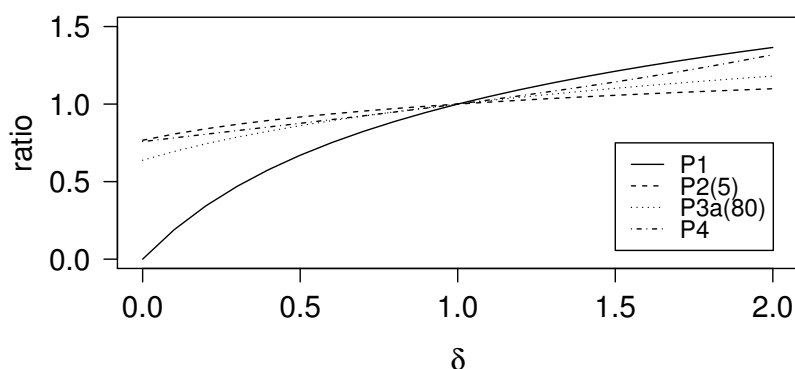
δ	$\Pi_{50}^{[P2(1)]}(\delta, 1)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P2(1)]}(\delta, 1)$	$\Pi_{50}^{[P2(5)]}(\delta, 1)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P2(5)]}(\delta, 1)$
0.0	492.1453	0.7446436	492.1453	0.7668209
0.1	522.4302	0.7904664	517.9195	0.8069802
0.2	547.3508	0.8281727	539.5114	0.8406230
0.3	568.3981	0.8600184	558.0108	0.8694472
0.4	586.5416	0.8874705	574.1426	0.8945825
0.5	602.4415	0.9115280	588.4118	0.9168156
0.6	616.5641	0.9328964	601.1825	0.9367139
0.7	629.2483	0.9520882	612.7241	0.9546971
0.8	640.7467	0.9694859	623.2411	0.9710837
0.9	651.2520	0.9853810	632.8914	0.9861200
1.0	660.9139	1.0000000	641.7995	1.0000000
1.1	669.8509	1.0135223	650.0652	1.0128789
1.2	678.1584	1.0260919	657.7693	1.0248828
1.3	685.9139	1.0378264	664.9783	1.0361152
1.4	693.1814	1.0488226	671.7475	1.0466625
1.5	700.0145	1.0591615	678.1234	1.0565969
1.6	706.4581	1.0689111	684.1455	1.0659801
1.7	712.5507	1.0781294	689.8475	1.0748645
1.8	718.3251	1.0868664	695.2586	1.0832956
1.9	723.8097	1.0951649	700.4040	1.0913127
2.0	729.0293	1.1030626	705.3059	1.0989504

Table 11. Products P3a, P3b (insurance packages); $x = 50, C = 1000, b' = 50, b'' = 150$.

δ	$\Pi_{50}^{[P3a(80)]}(\delta, 1)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P3a(80)]}(\delta, 1)$	$\Pi_{50}^{[P3b(80)]}(\delta, 1)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P3b(80)]}(\delta, 1)$
0.0	700.5211	0.6379255	524.3054	0.6681005
0.1	762.7792	0.6946205	564.2116	0.7189513
0.2	816.5343	0.7435723	598.8261	0.7630591
0.3	863.9507	0.7867518	629.5434	0.8022009
0.4	906.4564	0.8254594	657.2615	0.8375209
0.5	945.0332	0.8605891	682.5844	0.8697888
0.6	980.3808	0.8927781	705.9351	0.8995436
0.7	1013.0142	0.9224956	727.6214	0.9271776
0.8	1043.3239	0.9500969	747.8754	0.9529864
0.9	1071.6132	0.9758584	766.8772	0.9771996
1.0	1098.1236	1.0000000	784.7703	1.0000000
1.1	1123.0514	1.0227003	801.6718	1.0215369
1.2	1146.5586	1.0441071	817.6790	1.0419342
1.3	1168.7817	1.0643443	832.8740	1.0612966
1.4	1189.8365	1.0835178	847.3271	1.0797136
1.5	1209.8231	1.1017185	861.0993	1.0972629
1.6	1228.8288	1.1190259	874.2436	1.1140122
1.7	1246.9299	1.1355096	886.8072	1.1300214
1.8	1264.1943	1.1512313	898.8317	1.1453438
1.9	1280.6825	1.1662462	910.3545	1.1600268
2.0	1296.4487	1.1806036	921.4091	1.1741132

Table 12. Product P4 (enhanced pension); $x = 65, b = 100, b'' = 150$.

δ	$b'(\delta, 1)$	$\rho_x^{[P4]}(\delta, 1)$
0.0	100.00000	0.7582433
0.1	96.96404	0.7819840
0.2	94.13166	0.8055136
0.3	91.47026	0.8289506
0.4	88.95221	0.8524165
0.5	86.55461	0.8760288
0.6	84.25873	0.8998988
0.7	82.04926	0.9241317
0.8	79.91365	0.9488283
0.9	77.84153	0.9740858
1.0	75.82433	1.0000000
1.1	73.85486	1.0266668
1.2	71.92708	1.0541833
1.3	70.03587	1.0826500
1.4	68.17685	1.1121713
1.5	66.34626	1.1428576
1.6	64.54086	1.1748267
1.7	62.75783	1.2082052
1.8	60.99468	1.2431301
1.9	59.24927	1.2797513
2.0	57.51967	1.3182330

**Figure 5.** Disablement assumption: sensitivity analysis.

5.2. Extra-Mortality Assumption

Some results of sensitivity analysis with respect to the extra-mortality assumption are shown in Tables 13–16, in terms of single premiums, normalized single premiums and reduced benefit in the enhanced pension.

The numerical results show that the stand-alone LTCI product, *i.e.*, Product P1, is the one with the highest sensitivity also with respect to the extra-mortality assumption. See Figure 6. We note that, as P1 provides a living benefit, a safety loading could be included in the premium by underestimating the extra-mortality of disabled people.

Conversely, the extra-mortality assumption has no impact on the premium of the whole life assurance with acceleration benefit if $s = 1$: indeed, in this case, the whole death benefit is paid upon the LTC claim. Further, a very low impact affects the case $s = 5$.

Table 13. Product P1 (stand-alone); $x = 50, b = 100$.

λ	$\Pi_{50}^{[P1]}(1, \lambda)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P1]}(1, \lambda)$
0.0	855.7094	1.6662838
0.1	806.6737	1.5707987
0.2	761.9567	1.4837234
0.3	721.0856	1.4041370
0.4	683.6467	1.3312339
0.5	649.2769	1.2643073
0.6	617.6576	1.2027364
0.7	588.5080	1.1459748
0.8	561.5807	1.0935405
0.9	536.6571	1.0450079
1.0	513.5436	1.0000000
1.1	492.0686	0.9581828
1.2	472.0797	0.9192592
1.3	453.4411	0.8829652
1.4	436.0319	0.8490650
1.5	419.7439	0.8173482
1.6	404.4804	0.7876263
1.7	390.1547	0.7597305
1.8	376.6889	0.7335090
1.9	364.0128	0.7088255
2.0	352.0634	0.6855570

Table 14. Product P2 (acceleration benefit); $x = 50, C = 1000$

λ	$\Pi_{50}^{[P2(1)]}(1, \lambda)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P2(1)]}(1, \lambda)$	$\Pi_{50}^{[P2(5)]}(1, \lambda)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P2(5)]}(1, \lambda)$
0.0	660.9139	1	640.3371	0.9977214
0.1	660.9139	1	640.4879	0.9979563
0.2	660.9139	1	640.6376	0.9981896
0.3	660.9139	1	640.7863	0.9984213
0.4	660.9139	1	640.9341	0.9986515
0.5	660.9139	1	641.0808	0.9988801
0.6	660.9139	1	641.2265	0.9991071
0.7	660.9139	1	641.3712	0.9993326
0.8	660.9139	1	641.5150	0.9995566
0.9	660.9139	1	641.6577	0.9997791
1.0	660.9139	1	641.7995	1.0000000
1.1	660.9139	1	641.9404	1.0002194
1.2	660.9139	1	642.0802	1.0004374
1.3	660.9139	1	642.2191	1.0006538
1.4	660.9139	1	642.3571	1.0008688
1.5	660.9139	1	642.4941	1.0010822
1.6	660.9139	1	642.6302	1.0012943
1.7	660.9139	1	642.7653	1.0015048
1.8	660.9139	1	642.8995	1.0017140
1.9	660.9139	1	643.0328	1.0019216
2.0	660.9139	1	643.1652	1.0021279

Table 15. Products P3a, P3b (insurance packages); $x = 50$, $C = 1000$, $b' = 50$, $b'' = 150$.

λ	$\Pi_{50}^{[P3a(80)]}(1, \lambda)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P3a(80)]}(1, \lambda)$	$\Pi_{50}^{[P3b(80)]}(1, \lambda)$	$\rho_{50}^{[P3b(80)]}(1, \lambda)$
0.0	1373.1426	1.2504444	1 030.1514	1.3126789
0.1	1333.7360	1.2145591	992.0364	1.2641106
0.2	1297.7979	1.1818323	957.9426	1.2206663
0.3	1264.9490	1.1519186	927.4057	1.1817544
0.4	1234.8573	1.1245157	900.0200	1.1468579
0.5	1207.2314	1.0993584	875.4306	1.1155246
0.6	1181.8156	1.0762136	853.3264	1.0873583
0.7	1158.3843	1.0548760	833.4345	1.0620108
0.8	1136.7389	1.0351648	815.5147	1.0391763
0.9	1116.7039	1.0169200	799.3555	1.0185853
1.0	1098.1236	1.0000000	784.7703	1.0000000
1.1	1080.8603	0.9842793	771.5943	0.9832104
1.2	1064.7915	0.9696463	759.6816	0.9680305
1.3	1049.8081	0.9560017	748.9029	0.9542957
1.4	1035.8128	0.9432570	739.1434	0.9418596
1.5	1022.7189	0.9313331	730.3010	0.9305921
1.6	1010.4485	0.9201591	722.2849	0.9203775
1.7	998.9319	0.9096716	715.0140	0.9111125
1.8	988.1065	0.8998136	708.4160	0.9027050
1.9	977.9161	0.8905337	702.4263	0.8950725
2.0	968.3098	0.8817858	696.9867	0.8881411

Table 16. Product P4 (enhanced pension); $x = 65$, $b = 100$, $b'' = 150$.

λ	$b'(1, \lambda)$	$\rho_x^{[P4]}(1, \lambda)$
0.0	62.34898	1.2161277
0.1	64.17119	1.1815946
0.2	65.86125	1.1512738
0.3	67.43103	1.1244723
0.4	68.89119	1.1006390
0.5	70.25128	1.0793302
0.6	71.51992	1.0601847
0.7	72.70488	1.0429056
0.8	73.81315	1.0272469
0.9	74.85106	1.0130027
1.0	75.82433	1.0000000
1.1	76.73813	0.9880920
1.2	77.59716	0.9771534
1.3	78.40567	0.9670771
1.4	79.16755	0.9577704
1.5	79.88630	0.9491531
1.6	80.56513	0.9411556
1.7	81.20698	0.9337169
1.8	81.81451	0.9267834
1.9	82.39015	0.9203081
2.0	82.93615	0.9142494

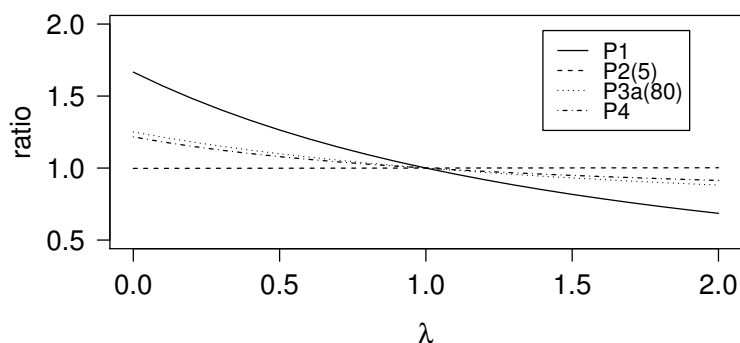


Figure 6. Extra-mortality assumption: sensitivity analysis.

5.3. Joint Sensitivity Analysis

A joint sensitivity analysis can produce various results of practical interest. It can be performed looking, in particular, at the surface, which represents the behavior of the function:

$$z = \Pi_x^{[PX]}(\delta, \lambda) \quad (41)$$

For example, Figure 7 shows the behavior of the function $z = \Pi_{50}^{[P3a(80)]}(\delta, \lambda)$.

For brevity, we only focus on sensitivity analysis aiming to find, for the generic product PX and a given age x , the set of pairs (δ, λ) , such that:

$$\rho_x^{[PX]}(\delta, \lambda) = \rho_x^{[PX]}(1, 1) = 1 \quad (42)$$

Equation (42) implies for Products P1, P2, P3:

$$\Pi_x^{[PX]}(\delta, \lambda) = \Pi_x^{[PX]}(1, 1) \quad (43)$$

We note that Equation (43) represents an “iso-premium” line: actually, all of the pairs (δ, λ) that fulfill this equation lead to the same single premium.

For Product P4, Equation (42) implies:

$$b'(\delta, \lambda) = b'(1, 1) \quad (44)$$

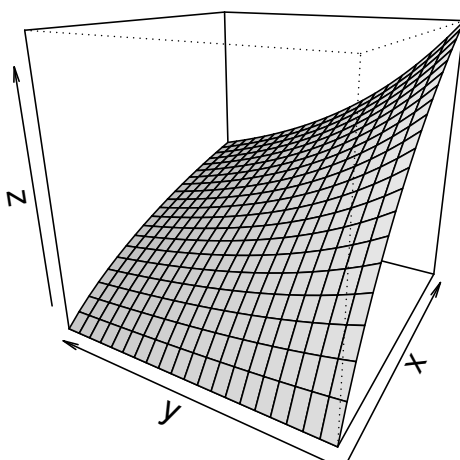


Figure 7. Product P3a(80); $x = \delta$ (disability), $y = \lambda$ (extra-mortality), $z = \Pi$ (premium).

Hence, the graphical representation of Equations (42)–(44) provides insight into the possible offset between, for example, an overestimation of the extra-mortality and an overestimation of the probability of entering the LTC state.

The iso-premium curves plotted in Figure 8 show this possibility with reference to Products P1 and P3a(80). We note that, thanks to the wide ranges chosen for both parameters, the possibility of offset appears effective also in the case of significant under- or over-estimation of the parameters.

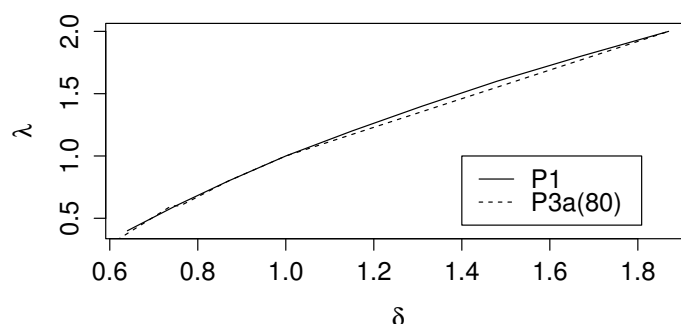


Figure 8. Offset effect: iso-premium lines.

6. Concluding Remarks

A numerical analysis has been carried out to assess the sensitivity of various LTCI products with respect to the basic biometric assumptions (probability of disablement and extra-mortality of disabled people).

The normalized ratio of premiums has been chosen to provide a numerical assessment of the sensitivity. It should be noted, however, that the resulting comparisons only describe the insurer's exposure to the uncertainty risk, while they do not provide a complete picture of the sensitivities, especially because of difficulties in finding the equivalent level of coverage from the various products.

Numerical examples show, in particular, that the LTC stand-alone cover is much riskier than all of the LTC combined products that we have considered. As a consequence, the LTC stand-alone cover is a highly "absorbing" product as regards capital requirements for solvency purposes.

Combined LTCI products mainly aim at reducing the relative weight of the "risk" component by introducing a "saving" component into the product, or by adding LTC benefits to an insurance product with an important saving component.

In more general terms, in the area of health insurance a combined product can result in being profitable to the insurance company, even if one of its components is not profitable, and further, it can be less risky than one of its components, being in particular less exposed to the impact of the uncertainty risk related to the choice of technical bases.

From the client's perspective, purchasing a combined product can be less expensive than separately purchasing all of the single components, in particular thanks to a reduction of acquisition costs charged to the policyholder, but also thanks to a possible lower total safety loading. Of course, allowing for different clients' preferences would call for a more complex analysis, which should be defined in terms of personal wealth and health management process.

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