

**South Central Priorities Committees**  
(Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire East, Berkshire West and Buckinghamshire PCTs)

**Policy Statement 231:**  
*[MOBBB Statement No. 76]*

**High-intensity focused ultrasound for colorectal liver metastases**

**Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Shadow Governing Body decision:**

**Approved July 2012**

**Date of Issue:**

**August 2012**

***The South Central Priorities Committee (Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire East, Berkshire West and Buckinghamshire PCTs) has considered the evidence for high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) for colorectal liver metastases.***

***The Committee RECOMMENDS that HIFU for colorectal liver metastases is a LOW PRIORITY because of a lack of evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness.***

The liver is a frequent site for metastatic cancer, with a colorectal primary the commonest source. High-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) involves the use of an ultrasonic transducer fitted with acoustic lenses to focus the ultrasound waves. This causes local heating which ablates the tumour.

There is very limited evidence about the clinical effectiveness of HIFU in treating colorectal metastases in the liver. There are studies which indicate that the intervention causes ablation changes on imaging, but the clinical implications of this are unclear. There are very little data about the effect of HIFU on patients' symptoms, recurrence and survival.

**NOTES:**

1. Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by commissioners of NHS health care in Oxfordshire where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living.)
2. This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new guidance from NICE.
3. The MOBBB Priorities Committee Minutes and NHS Oxfordshire's policies can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/professional-resources/priority-setting/default.aspx>