

Excluded - Specialised: NHS England specialised commissioning

Policy Statement 231: High-intensity focused ultrasound for colorectal liver metastases

Date of Issue: August 2012 (South Central Priorities Committee)

The South Central Priorities Committee considered the evidence for high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) for colorectal liver metastases.

The Committee **recommended** that HIFU for colorectal liver metastases is a **Procedure Not Routinely Funded** 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. Procedure not routinely funded formerly known as Low Priority/Procedure of Limited Clinical Value/Never Dos
2. Exceptional circumstances may be considered where there is evidence of significant health impairment and there is also evidence of the intervention improving health status.
3. This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or guidance from NICE.
4. Further information on policy statements is available from <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/>