

SHIP8 Clinical Commissioning Groups Priorities Committee

No. 57

Policy Recommendation: Removal of benign skin lesions

Date of issue: August 2019

The committee reviewed evidence and sought responses from a wide range of clinicians and obtained an evidence review as well as taking due regard of the statement from the NHS England Evidence Based Interventions statement on benign skin lesions.

The committee were keen to note that this policy is for benign skin lesions and potentially malignant or premalignant lesions are outside the scope of this review.

Removal of benign skin lesions should not be offered for cosmetic reasons. Removal of a benign skin lesion should only be offered in situations where the lesion is causing symptoms according to the criteria outlined below. This is due to the risks of treatment outweighing benefit in most cases. Risks from the procedure can include bleeding, pain, infection, and scarring.

Benign skin lesions must meet at least ONE of the following criteria for NHS funding to be approved for removal and all reasonable conservative management including self-care advice must have been attempted before the offer of surgery:

- The lesion is unavoidably and significantly traumatised on a regular basis. Evidence supporting this includes:
 - regular bleeding and/or resulting in infections such that the patient requires 2 or more courses of antibiotics (oral or intravenous) per year;
- The lesion bleeds in the course of normal everyday activity, such as the fastening or removal of clothing, use of tools or equipment;
- The lesion causes regular pain which affects or limits daily functioning;
- The lesion is obstructing an orifice or impairing field vision to the extent that the person does not meet DVLA standards for driving;
- The lesion significantly impacts on function and causes a reduction in their activities of daily living using a recognised scoring measure such as the [Barthel ADL Score](#) or [EuroQol](#) which is likely to improve after intervention;
- The lesion causes pressure symptoms such as on a nerve;
- If left untreated, more invasive intervention would be required for removal;

Lipomas on the body > 5cms, or in a sub-fascial position, with rapid growth and/or pain. These should be referred to Sarcoma clinic.

Review date: August 2023

Whilst the Committee recognised the considered expert advice of NICE and NHS England Evidence Based Interventions guidance in their recommendation, it also had a duty to prioritise spending of a finite resource locally and made a decision which it felt gave the most equitable and effective use of investment