

SonoVue (sulphur hexafluoride microbubbles) – contrast agent for contrast-enhanced ultrasound imaging of the liver

Diagnostics Consultation Document (DCD) - Comments

Reviewer	Comment no.	Section no.	Comment	Response
NHS Professional	1.	section 1 comment on section 1: Provisional recommendations	should say if MRI inconclusive in section 1.3 and if MRI/CT inconclusive in section 1.4	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Given the lower cost of performing a contrast-enhanced ultrasound scan with SonoVue (when compared to contrast-enhanced CT/MRI), the most appropriate use of contrast-enhanced ultrasound with SonoVue in the diagnostic pathway was considered to be either as a replacement for or a triage step before CT/MRI. The available data allowed for the assessment of contrast-enhanced ultrasound with SonoVue when used as a replacement for CT/MRI only (detailed in paragraph 3.8 of the guidance document).</p> <p>When considering the total expected costs and benefits associated with contrast-enhanced ultrasound with SonoVue in, for example, the characterisation of incidentally detected focal liver lesions model (likely to be the most common application of the three indications assessed), contrast-enhanced ultrasound with SonoVue was found to cost £52 less and yielded 0.0002 additional QALYs when</p>

SonoVue (sulphur hexafluoride microbubbles) – contrast agent for contrast-enhanced ultrasound imaging of the liver

Diagnostics Consultation Document (DCD) - Comments

Reviewer	Comment no.	Section no.	Comment	Response
				<p>compared to contrast-enhanced CT and cost £131 less and yielded 0.0026 additional QALYs when compared to contrast-enhanced MRI. Therefore, the lower cost and additional benefit associated with contrast-enhanced ultrasound with SonoVue indicate that this technology would not be likely to be best used after contrast-enhanced CT/MRI.</p> <p>After considering the above, the Committee did not feel it appropriate to make any amendments to the recommendations.</p>
NHS Professional	2.	section 4 comment on section 4: The diagnostic tests	again its best use is when MR and CT are inconclusive NOT instead of MR or CT	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Please see response to comment no. 1.</p>