

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
IP1357 – Radiofrequency treatment for haemorrhoids

IPAC date: June 2017

Com. no.	Consultee name and organisation	Sec. no.	Comments	Response Please respond to all comments
1	Consultee 1 Consultant Colorectal Surgeon NHS Professional	General	The Review and conclusions as stated seem balanced and fair. I have performed a few of these cases recently and both patients had an excellent outcome with no pain and minimal bleeding. I performed both under GA as they needed a thorough examination which had been difficult in outpatients. I plan to continue with this technique most likely under some sedation in an endoscopy suite. there is no doubt that it can be done under Local anaesthetic but i feel the addition of sedation helps the patient to tolerate the proctoscope better and allows a more accurate placement of the probe. Recovery is little hindered other than needing a lift home and someone at home that night. I feel that this adds a very important treatment which fits instead of/after banding. It is well tolerated, precise and has a low pain score and complication rate. It can be performed out of the operating theatre and under LA and sedation. This part of the treatment escalation/options needs a procedure such as rafaello.	Thank you for your comment. Section 3.1 of the guidance has been changed to: ‘Radiofrequency treatment for haemorrhoids is usually done under local anaesthetic, <i>with or without sedation.</i>’

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2	Consultee 2 Company Modern Aesthetic Solutions Ltd	3.1	It should be noted that whilst the document refers to the procedure being carried out under local anaesthetic, often in the UK we find that most of our 16 centres which so far offer the treatment, do so under some sedation - the degree of which varies at their discretion. This is particularly likely where multiple procedures are being combined in one session.	Thank you for your comment. Section 3.1 of the guidance has been changed to: 'Radiofrequency treatment for haemorrhoids is usually done under local anaesthetic, <i>with or without sedation.</i> '
3	Consultee 3 Consultant colorectal surgeon,	General	I am sending my comments for RAFAELO procedure under consultation, as a Colorectal Surgeon. In my experience this procedure is safe, almost painless, and can be performed under sedation but often a General Anaesthesia is preferred by surgeons and patients. However this procedure is likely to help only grade 1 or small grade 2 haemorrhoids. This procedure is almost similar to phenol injection sclerotherapy except for the difference of radio frequency used instead of a chemical. The procedure is still in its infancy and the evidence to support this treatment is not strong.	Thank you for your comment. Section 3.1 of the guidance states that the procedure is usually done under local anaesthetic, with or without sedation.

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4	Consultee 2 Company Modern Aesthetic Solutions Ltd	General	Whilst there is limited published evidence, one abstract prepared by Mr Richard Cohen at UCH London has been submitted for publication, showing high efficacy and low pain score without any complications whatsoever. There are 16 private centres so far offering the procedure (Spire, BMI, Cromwell) plus it is to be offered routinely at UCH and Kings College Hospitals. Several hundred treatments have been performed in the UK during the past 12 months without any significant adverse incidents.	Thank you for your comments. Conference abstracts are not normally considered adequate to support decisions on efficacy and are not generally selected for presentation in the overview, unless they contain important safety data.

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