

High-intensity focused ultrasound for symptomatic benign thyroid nodules

Information for the public

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There is not much good evidence about how well this procedure works for symptomatic benign thyroid nodules. This procedure can be used but only when patients are having regular checks to see how well it is working or if it has caused problems. This is because of the concerns about its long-term effects and serious complications.

A thyroid nodule is a lump in the thyroid gland. Most are benign (not cancerous). This procedure uses heat made by high-frequency sound waves to destroy tissue in the nodule. The aim is to make the nodule smaller, thereby relieving pressure symptoms and improving appearance.

NICE's information on [interventional procedures guidance](#) has more about what a procedure is and how we assess them.

Is this procedure right for me?

If you've been offered this procedure, your healthcare professionals should discuss with you what is involved, and tell you about the risks and benefits. They should talk with you about your options, and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family or friends can be involved too, if you wish. All of this should happen before you agree (consent) to have the procedure. You should also be told how to find more information about the procedure. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

Some questions to think about

- What does the procedure involve?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- What happens if the procedure doesn't work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I don't want the procedure? Are there other treatments available?

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