

Irreversible electroporation for treating prostate cancer

Information for the public

Published: 5 July 2023

www.nice.org.uk

There is not enough evidence about how well this procedure works in the long term. So, it can only be done with special arrangements. This means you will have regular appointments afterwards to check how well it is working or if it has caused problems.

Prostate cancer affects the prostate, a small gland near the bladder. In this procedure, needles are inserted into the prostate and short pulses of high-voltage electrical current are passed between the needles to create tiny holes (pores) in the cancer cells (irreversible electroporation). The aim is to kill the cancer cells without damaging the structure of the prostate.

The [NHS webpage on prostate cancer](#) may have information on your condition and treatment options.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

Information and support

- [NICE's information on HealthTech guidance](#) explains what HealthTech is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on HealthTech recommendations](#) explains what special arrangements are.

[Prostate Cancer UK](#) (0800 074 8383) can give you advice and support.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

ISBN: 978-1-4731-8932-4