

# Endoscopic bipolar radiofrequency ablation for malignant biliary obstruction

Information for the public

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[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

This procedure can only be done as part of a research study. This is because there is not enough evidence to be sure how well it works. Your healthcare professional should talk to you about the research.

Cancer of the bile duct or pancreas can block the channels that carry bile and digestive fluids from the gall bladder and pancreas to the small intestine (malignant biliary obstruction). This can cause jaundice, nausea, bloating and abdominal pain. The blockage is usually treated by inserting small tubes called stents, which help to keep the channels open and draining properly. But these stents can also become blocked.

In this procedure, a thin tube with a camera on the end (an endoscope) is passed through the mouth to the blockage. A device is then passed through the endoscope and used to deliver heat energy (radiofrequency) to destroy (ablate) the blockage in the channels. This procedure is done before inserting stents or to clear blocked stents. The aim is to reduce symptoms.

## 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

The [NHS webpage on bile duct cancer](#) may be a good place to find out more.

- [NICE's information on HealthTech guidance](#) explains what HealthTech is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on HealthTech recommendations](#) explains what only in research means.

[Pancreatic Cancer UK](#), 0808 801 0707, can give you advice and support.

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

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