

Cyanoacrylate instillation for occlusion of parotid sinuses

Understanding NICE guidance –
information for people considering the
procedure, and for the public

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About this information

This information describes the guidance that the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued to the NHS on a procedure called cyanoacrylate instillation. It is not a complete description of what is involved in the procedure – the patient’s healthcare team should describe it in detail.

NICE has looked at whether cyanoacrylate instillation is safe enough and works well enough for it to be used routinely to block (occlude) parotid sinuses.

To produce this guidance, NICE has:

- looked at the results of studies on the safety of cyanoacrylate instillation and how well it works
- asked experts for their opinion
- asked the views of the organisations that speak for the healthcare professionals and the patients and carers who will be affected by this guidance.

This guidance is part of NICE’s work on ‘interventional procedures’ (see ‘Further information’ on page 10).

About cyanoacrylate instillation

The parotid glands are the salivary glands that lie in front of and below the ears. If a person has an operation on a parotid gland, there's a chance that a hole can form, running from the outside of the cheek through to what's left of the parotid gland. The medical name for this type of hole is a sinus. It may look unpleasant, and saliva may leak through it.

Cyanoacrylate instillation is a procedure for sealing the sinus. It involves injecting a liquid containing an oily substance called lipiodol and a medical form of superglue (cyanoacrylate) into the parotid gland from inside the sinus. If it doesn't seal the sinus at the first attempt, the procedure can be repeated.

How well it works

What the studies said

NICE found only one report on how well the procedure worked, and the report only followed what happened in one patient. This was not enough information for NICE to reach a decision on how well the procedure worked.

What the experts said

None of the specialist doctors NICE spoke to was aware of the procedure. So it was not possible to get an expert opinion on cyanoacrylate instillation.

Risks and possible problems

What the studies said

Again, there was not enough information available for NICE to reach a decision on whether the procedure was safe enough for it to be used routinely.

What has NICE decided?

NICE has decided that, if a doctor wants to carry out cyanoacrylate instillation, he or she should make sure that the patient understands what is involved and that there are still uncertainties over the safety of the procedure and how well it works. There should be special arrangements in place so that the patient only agrees (consents) to the procedure after this discussion has taken place.

Other comments from NICE

NICE has said that doctors who want to do this procedure may want to speak to the doctor who has already carried out the procedure in the UK. He is Mr AJ Marcus of the Edgware Hospital, London.

What the decision means for you

Your doctor may have offered you cyanoacrylate instillation. NICE has considered this procedure because it is relatively new. NICE has decided that there are uncertainties about the benefits and risks of cyanoacrylate instillation which you need to understand before you agree to it. Your doctor should discuss the benefits and risks with you. Some of these benefits and risks may be described above.

Further information

You have the right to be fully informed and to share in decision-making about the treatment you receive. You may want to discuss this guidance with the doctors and nurses looking after you.

You can visit the NICE website (www.nice.org.uk) for further information about the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and the Interventional Procedures Programme. A copy of the full guidance on cyanoacrylate instillation for occlusion of parotid sinuses is on the NICE website (www.nice.org.uk/IPG042guidance), or you can order a copy from the website or by telephoning the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 and quoting reference number N0441. The evidence that NICE considered in developing this guidance is also available from the NICE website.

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