

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

IP1020 Irreversible electroporation for treating prostate cancer Consultation Comments Table

13 October 2016

Com. no.	Consultee name and organisation	Sec. no.	Comments	Response
1	Consultee 1 Charity	N/A	<p>Irreversible electroporation for treating prostate cancer (Nano Knife)</p> <p>The aim of irreversible electroporation is to destroy cancerous cells by subjecting them to a series of short electrical pulses using high-voltage direct current. This creates multiple holes in the cell membrane, irreversibly damaging the cell's homeostatic mechanisms and leading to cell death.</p> <p>This has been used with promising results in a variety of cancers including pancreatic and liver cancer. In prostate cancer, studies have shown it to be a possibly successful and safe treatment for early stage, low grade cancers. It has been shown to have fewer adverse affects than both HIFU and cryosurgery.</p> <p>Results on small scale trials show that only 2% of patients suffered adverse affects and these were easily dealt with. Moreover, after six months, 98% had no erectile dysfunction and no patients suffered incontinence.</p> <p>This is a treatment which should be explored further.</p>	<p>Please respond to all comments</p> <p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>The Committee considers all the available published evidence before making its recommendation.</p> <p>The Committee considered that the level of uncertainty about the efficacy or safety evidence was such that it is in the best interest of patients to recommend controlled investigation of the procedure under the scrutiny and protection of research ethics committees.</p> <p>Section 6 of the guidance states that the Committee noted that this procedure has also been used to treat cancer in organs other than the prostate.</p>

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