

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment

IPG643 High-intensity focused ultrasound for symptomatic benign thyroid nodules

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE Equality scheme.

Briefing

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the briefing process (development of the brief or discussion at the committee meeting), and, if so, what are they?

Age: thyroid nodules are uncommon in children and adolescents (about 2% of children have palpable thyroid nodules).

Gender: thyroid nodules are more common in women than men.

Ethnicity: benign thyroid nodules (and thyroid cancer) are more common in South Asian women.

Disability: people with thyroid nodules may be covered under the Equality Act 2010 if their symptoms substantially impact on day to day activities and have done so for longer than 12 months, or if they are already covered due to a pre-existing impairment.

Pregnancy: thyroid nodules may increase in size during pregnancy.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the committee? (If there are exclusions listed in the brief (for example, populations, treatments or settings), are these justified?)

This was not thought to have an impact on the assessment of the procedure. No exclusions were applied.

3. Has any change to the brief (such as additional issues raised during the committee meeting) been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

No

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the committee meeting, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No

Kevin Harris

Approved by Programme Director and Clinical Advisor

Date: 08/01/2019

Consultation

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the briefing process been addressed by the committee, and, if so, how?

Age: Mean 51 years for patients with benign thyroid nodules included in the overview (for whom data on age were reported).

Gender: 80% (531/665) of patients included in the overview (for whom data on gender were reported) were female.

No specific data relating to ethnicity and pregnancy status was identified in the literature presented in the overview.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the overview, specialist adviser questionnaires or patient commentary, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?
No

3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the committee, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?
No

4. Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access a technology or intervention compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?
No

5. Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?
Not applicable

6. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 4 or 5, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to promote equality?
Not applicable

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the consultation document, and, if so, where?
No

Kevin Harris

Approved by Programme Director and Clinical Advisor

Date: 08/01/2019

Final interventional procedures document

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?
No

2. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access a technology or intervention compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?
Not applicable

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?
Not applicable

4. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 2 and 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?
Not applicable

5. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final interventional procedures document, and, if so, where?
No

Mark Campbell

Approved by Acting Programme Director

Date: 19 February 2019