NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Guideline scope

Pancreatic cancer: diagnosis and management in adults

Topic

The Department of Health in England and NHS England have asked NICE to develop a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of pancreatic cancer.

This guideline will also be used to develop the NICE quality standard for pancreatic cancer.

For more information about why this guideline is being developed, and how the guideline will fit into current practice, see the context section.

Who the guideline is for

- Healthcare professionals in secondary and tertiary care who are involved in the diagnosis, treatment, care and support of people with pancreatic cancer
- Commissioners of pancreatic cancer services (including clinical commissioning groups and NHS England specialised commissioning)
- Healthcare professionals in primary care
- Healthcare professionals providing end-of-life care
- People using pancreatic cancer services, their family members and carers, and the public.

NICE guidelines cover health and care in England. Decisions on how they apply in other UK countries are made by ministers in the Welsh Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive.
Equality considerations

NICE has carried out an equality impact assessment during scoping. The assessment:

- lists equality issues identified, and how they have been addressed
- explains why any groups are excluded from the scope.

1 What the guideline is about

1.1 Who is the focus?

Groups that will be covered

- Adults (18 and over) referred to secondary care with suspected pancreatic cancer
- Adults (18 and over) with newly diagnosed or recurrent pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

Groups that will not be covered

- Adults (18 and over) in primary care with suspected pancreatic cancer
- People with confirmed tumours of the pancreas other than pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

1.2 Settings

Settings that will be covered

All settings in which NHS care is provided.

1.3 Activities, services or aspects of care

Key areas that will be covered

1 Information and support needs for people with pancreatic cancer and their families and carers
2 Referring people to specialist teams
3 Diagnosing suspected pancreatic cancer
4 Staging pancreatic cancer
52  5 Managing pancreatic cancer
53  6 Follow-up of people with pancreatic cancer.

Areas that will not be covered
Identifying people in primary care with suspected pancreatic cancer and
referring them to secondary care.

1.4 Economic aspects
We will take economic aspects into account when making recommendations.
We will develop an economic plan that states for each review question (or key
area in the scope) whether economic considerations are relevant, and if so
whether this is an area that should be prioritised for economic modelling and
analysis. We will review the economic evidence and carry out economic
analyses, using an NHS and personal social services (PSS) perspective, as
appropriate.

1.5 Key issues and questions
While writing this scope, we have identified the following key issues and draft
review questions related to them:

1  Information and support needs for people with pancreatic cancer and
   their families
   1.1 What are the specific information and support needs of people who
   are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and their families or carers (as
   appropriate) throughout the care pathway?
   2 Referral to specialist teams
      2.1 Does referral of all people with suspected pancreatic cancer to a
      regional centre or multidisciplinary team for review improve patient
      management and outcomes? (Inclusion of this review question in the
      final scope will depend on the relevant data being provided by The
      National Cancer Intelligence Network.)
   3 Diagnosing suspected pancreatic cancer
3.1 What is the diagnostic accuracy of CA 19–9, cytology and imaging investigations in people with suspected pancreatic cancer in secondary care who have the following:
- obstructive jaundice
- no jaundice with pancreatic lump(s)
- pancreatic cysts
- other high risk groups, for example, familial pancreatic cancer and hereditary pancreatitis (PRSS1 mutations)?

4 Staging pancreatic cancer
4.1 What is the most effective investigative pathway (for example, combinations of CA19-9, endoluminal ultrasound, CT, MRI, positron emission tomography (PET)-CT, tissue diagnosis, laparoscopy with or without ultrasound) for staging pancreatic cancer as resectable, borderline resectable, locally advanced or metastatic disease?

5 Management of pancreatic cancer
5.1 What is the most effective surgery for resectable and borderline resectable pancreatic cancer?
5.2 What are the most effective neoadjuvant therapies (chemotherapy, chemoradiotherapy, do nothing) in resectable and borderline resectable pancreatic cancer?
5.3 What is the most effective adjuvant therapy (chemotherapy, chemoradiotherapy or radiotherapy) after resection of pancreatic cancer?
5.4 What is the most effective treatment (chemotherapy, chemoradiotherapy, or other local therapies) for locally advanced pancreatic cancer?
5.5 What is the most effective management of metastatic pancreatic cancer (for example, chemotherapy [excluding NICE technology appraisals], symptom control, surgery for isolated metastases)?
5.6 What is the most effective management of duodenal obstruction?
5.7 What is the most effective management of biliary obstruction?
5.8 What nutritional interventions (for example, pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy, liquid nutritional supplements, dietetic assessment) improve outcomes for people with pancreatic cancer?

6 Follow-up of people with pancreatic cancer

6.1 What is the most effective follow-up protocol for people with resected pancreatic cancer?

The key questions may be used to develop more detailed review questions, which guide the systematic review of the literature.

1.6 **Main outcomes**

The main outcomes that will be considered when searching for and assessing the evidence are:

1 Overall survival
2 Disease-free survival
3 Nutritional status
4 Pain
5 Disease-related morbidity
6 Treatment-related morbidity
7 Treatment-related mortality
8 Health-related quality of life
9 Patient reported outcome measures.

2 **Links with other NICE guidance, NICE quality standards and NICE Pathways**

2.1 **NICE guidance**

**NICE guidance about the experience of people using NHS services**

NICE has produced the following guidance on the experience of people using the NHS. This guideline will not include additional recommendations on these topics unless there are specific issues related to pancreatic cancer:

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#) (2012) NICE guideline CG138
• Medicines adherence (2009) NICE guideline CG76

**NICE guidance in development that is closely related to this guideline**

NICE is currently developing the following guidance that is closely related to this guideline:

• Care of the dying adult NICE guideline. Publication expected December 2015

• Improving supportive and palliative care in adults (update) NICE guideline. Publication expected January 2018

• Pancreatic cancer (metastatic, untreated) – liposomal cisplatin (with gemcitabine) NICE technology appraisal. Publication date to be confirmed

• Pancreatic cancer (metastatic) - nimotuzumab (1st line) NICE technology appraisal. Publication date to be confirmed

**2.2    NICE quality standards**

NICE quality standards that may use this guideline as an evidence source when they are being developed

• Pancreatic Cancer NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed

**2.3    NICE Pathways**

NICE Pathways bring together all related NICE guidance and associated products on a topic in an interactive topic-based flow chart. When this guideline is published, the recommendations will be added to NICE Pathways. Other relevant NICE guidance will also be added to the NICE Pathway, including:

• Suspected cancer (recognition and referral) (2015) NICE guideline 12

• Paclitaxel as albumin-bound nanoparticles in combination with gemcitabine for previously untreated metastatic pancreatic cancer (2015) NICE technology appraisal guidance 360

• Endoscopic bipolar radiofrequency ablation for treating biliary obstruction caused by cholangiocarcinoma or pancreatic adenocarcinoma (2013) NICE interventional procedure guidance 464

• Irreversible electroporation for treating pancreatic cancer (2013) NICE interventional procedure guidance 442

• Autologous pancreatic islet cell transplantation for improved glycaemic control after pancreatectomy (2008) NICE interventional procedure guidance 274

• Laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy (2007) NICE interventional procedure guidance 204

• A draft pathway outline on pancreatic cancer, based on the draft scope, is included below. It will be adapted and more detail added as the recommendations are written during guideline development. The pancreatic cancer pathway will be accessible from the gastrointestinal cancers pathway.

Pancreatic cancer overview

[Diagram showing the pathway]

Adult referred to secondary care with suspected pancreatic cancer

Diagnosis

Referral to specialist teams

Information and support

Staging

Management (including TA300, TA25, IPS494, IPS496, IPS274 and IPS204)

Follow-up
3 Context

3.1 Key facts and figures

Pancreatic cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in the UK. On average, 23 people die each day from the disease. The UK has one of the worst survival rates in Europe, with average life expectancy on diagnosis just 4–6 months and a relative survival to 1 year of approximately 20%.

Only 3% of people survive for 5 years or longer. This figure has not improved much in over 40 years, and the more recent effects of increased surgery and use of adjuvant chemotherapy on survival outcomes is not yet established.

Because of late diagnosis only 4–10% of people with pancreatic cancer are eligible for potentially curative surgery. People who are able to have surgery to remove the tumour and be given adjuvant chemotherapy have up to a 30% chance of surviving 5 years.

3.2 Current practice

The symptoms of pancreatic cancer are non-specific. One survey found that 40% of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in England had visited their GP 3 or more times before the diagnosis was made. Fifty per cent of people are diagnosed as an emergency in the A&E system. Even after diagnosis of pancreatic cancer there is evidence from the National Cancer Intelligence Network of wide variation in practice throughout England.

3.3 Policy, legislation, regulation and commissioning

Policy

Department of Health (2014) Improving outcomes: a strategy for cancer 4th annual report

Department of Health (2012) Commissioning cancer services

210 Legislation, regulation and guidance

211 Department of Health (2001) Improving outcomes in upper gastro-intestinal cancers

213 European Society of Medical Oncology (2015), Cancer of the Pancreas: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines


219 Royal College of Pathologists (2010) Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the pancreas, ampulla of Vater and common bile duct

222 4 Further information

This is the draft scope for consultation with registered stakeholders. The consultation dates are 2 December 2015 to 13 January 2016.

The guideline is expected to be published in January 2018.

You can follow progress of the guideline.

[After consultation, delete the first paragraph above and replace it with ‘This is the final scope, incorporating comments from registered stakeholders during consultation’.

Our website has information about how NICE guidelines are developed.