

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Guidance development**

**STA Chondrosphere for articular cartilage defects**

The impact on equality has been assessed during this appraisal according to the principles of the NICE equality scheme.

**Final appraisal determination**

(when no ACD was issued)

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

During scoping, it was highlighted that comparator ACI procedures may include the use of porcine or bovine derived collagen membrane. This may be an issue for people with particular religious and cultural beliefs who have objections to the use of certain animal products.

This is not an issue because chondrosphere has been recommended.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the submissions, expert statements or academic report, 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?

In this appraisal, the committee made a recommendation similar to [TA477](#) that restricts the technology to people with minimal osteoarthritis in the knee,

which therefore excludes people with advanced osteoarthritis that may be disabling.

The following paragraph was included in the final appraisal determination “The committee considered its recommendation in the context of the equality legislation. It was aware that 1 of its criteria for treatment (that is, minimal osteoarthritic damage to the knee) excludes people with advanced or severe osteoarthritis, which can be disabling. However, one of the contraindications in the marketing authorisation for the technology is advanced osteoarthritis. The committee did not stipulate any specific threshold for the level of osteoarthritis, but instead states in the recommendations that it is appropriate for clinicians experienced in investigating knee cartilage damage to assess suitability for chondrosphere using a validated measure for osteoarthritis of the knee. The committee was therefore satisfied that it has mitigated, as far as it can, any potential unfairness.”

4. Do the recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access the technology 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 recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No.

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 obligations to promote equality?

Not applicable.

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final appraisal determination, and, if so, where?

Yes, in section 3.17 of the final appraisal determination.

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Elisabeth George

**Date:** 30/11/2017