



**BRITISH SOCIETY FOR
GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY**

Registered Charity No. 1077892

October 25th

Health Technology Appraisal

Review of NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance No 78; fluid filled thermal balloon and microwave endometrial ablation for menstrual bleeding

Proposal to defer the review

Having approached all the members of the BSGE Council we agree there is very little new evidence that requires a formal review until 2009.

There have been a number of longer term cohort studies and some smaller serious studies on device improvements but no significant research needing a major revision of the HTA Guideline. NICE will be aware that there are some major randomised trials comparing different ablative techniques ongoing, and some just completed, and presumably NICE will comment on these in future drafts. The BSGE would wish to draw to your attention to several randomised trials between second generation endometrial ablation techniques which will definitely impact on the advice that needs to be given. These will report in 2009/10.

Since the last document there have been several reported severe complications from thermal injury to intra-abdominal organs during ablative procedures. It should be emphasised that patients should be warned about this small but important risk.

Could you also contact **XXXX** for the results of the MEA vs Thermal balloon RCT funded by the CSO for which the one year data has been presented but not yet published. This includes clinical and economic outcomes.

Yours sincerely