

Chemoembolisation for pleural mesothelioma

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The Peninsula Health Technology Commissioning Group (PHTCG) has come to a decision on the use of chemoembolisation for pleural mesothelioma.

Chemoembolisation for pleural mesothelioma will not be commissioned.

Rationale for the decision

The clinical evidence to support the use of chemoembolisation for pleural mesothelioma as defined by the Network Site Specific Group for Lung Cancer for the Peninsula Cancer Network has been categorised as not supportable for the intervention. The treatment is not part of local guidelines or agreed by local experts in the field of lung cancer and mesothelioma. Cost effectiveness information is not available. The decision may be reviewed if subsequent evidence makes a clinical and cost-effective supportable case.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought.

Plain language summary

Mesothelioma is a form of cancer that is almost always caused by exposure to asbestos affecting mainly the lining of the lung. The procedure of chemoembolisation describes when the blood supply to the tumour is blocked surgically or mechanically and the anticancer drugs are given directly into the tumour. The use of this approach for pleural mesothelioma which affects the lining of the lungs is still experimental and all the potential benefits/risks of this treatment are therefore not fully known. Local experts in the treatment of lung cancer do not wish to use this procedure currently until more evidence of benefit to patients become apparent.

The Peninsula Health Technology Commissioning Group has supported this perspective and the procedure will not currently be used until further review.

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02.12.2009	Policy agreed by NHS Devon, NHS Plymouth and Torbay Care Trust. Policy adopted by Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG and South Devon and Torbay CCG on 01.04.2013 Policy adopted by NHS Devon CCG on 01.04.2019 Policy adopted by NHS Devon ICB on 01.07.2022