

Cryotherapy for recurrent prostate cancer

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

Cryotherapy for recurrent prostate cancer is not accepted for routine commissioning in Devon.

Rationale for the decision

Evidence of effectiveness and adverse events for cryotherapy in patients with prostate cancer recurrence is extremely limited. The majority of published studies do not employ control or treatment comparators. Where direct and indirect comparisons have been made to salvage radical prostatectomy, there is no evidence that cryotherapy resulted in lower recurrence or mortality rates, or a lower incidence of severe adverse events.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline NG131 (Prostate cancer: diagnosis and management) does not support the use of cryotherapy outside of a controlled clinical trial.

Cost effectiveness compared to hormone therapy (androgen deprivation therapy) is limited by the lack of comparative information to inform key parameters in modelling. A cost-utility analysis showed that cryotherapy was more cost-effective than androgen deprivation therapy however a number of assumptions made within the model raise uncertainty in this finding. No cost-effectiveness studies have compared cryotherapy to other salvage therapies. Therefore, it remains unclear if cryotherapy for recurrent prostate cancer represents good value for money.

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. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the ICB upon receipt of a completed application

from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

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