

High intensity focussed ultrasound (HIFU) for recurrent prostate cancer

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

High intensity focussed ultrasound (HIFU) for recurrent prostate cancer is not accepted for routine commissioning in Devon.

Rationale for the decision

Evidence of effectiveness and adverse events for HIFU 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 other salvage therapies, there is no evidence that HIFU resulted in lower recurrence or mortality rates, or a lower incidence of severe adverse events. Outcomes are only reported for limited follow-up periods of up to 7 years after treatment.

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

Whilst the procedure has a lower treatment cost than some alternatives, the comparative effectiveness of HIFU in recurrent prostate cancer is unclear.

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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