The reuse of single-use catheters and the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease: an update - nonsystematic review

Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec

Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
This report takes stock of the situation with several months' hindsight. It presents the latest scientific developments concerning the outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the possible link between BSE and the emergence of a new variant of CJD, and the modes of inter-human CJD transmission, including the risk of blood-borne transmission. This report also includes an estimate of the risk of a patient being exposed to a catheter previously used in an individual with CJD. These elements will enable CETS to assess the potential risk of CJD transmission associated with the reuse of single-use angioplasty and angiography catheters.

Authors' conclusions
Given the scientific evidence at our disposal concerning the modes of CJD transmission, CETS considers it essential that Quebec adopt a policy and protocols aimed at preventing iatrogenic CJD transmission through the reuse of medical devices (disposable or otherwise). The said policy and protocols should be based on the four factors mentioned above in order to take into account the level of risk involved in each situation (eg neurosurgery, ophthalmologic surgery, cardiac surgery) and to ensure that the measures adopted are commensurate with each level of risk.

Given the uncertainty still surrounding the blood-borne transmissibility of CJD via the peripheral route, CETS is of the opinion that the protocols to be developed in response to the recommendation above should take into consideration the infectivity of blood based on the level of risk posed by the patient.

Project page URL
http://www.aetmis.gouv.qc.ca/

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Syndrome /transmission /adverse effects; Infection Control; Pacemaker, Artificial /adverse effects

Language Published
English, French

Country of organisation
Canada

Province or state
Quebec
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Accession Number
31998008419

Date bibliographic record published
30/04/1998

Date abstract record published
30/04/1998