Review of the effectiveness of infrared thermal imaging (thermography) for population screening and diagnostic testing of breast cancer

Kerr J

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
To review the evidence for the effectiveness of infrared thermography for population screening and diagnostic testing of breast cancer. - Topic One - What is the international evidence on the effectiveness, benefits, harms and costs of using infrared thermography as a screening tool for breast cancer? - Topic Two - What is the international evidence on the effectiveness, benefits, harms and costs of using infrared thermography as an adjunctive diagnostic tool for breast cancer?

Authors' conclusions
A significant finding of the review conducted for the purpose of this NZHTA Tech Brief was that there were no studies that evaluated the effectiveness of the infrared technology devices that are available in New Zealand. In addition, there were few that evaluated comparable infrared technologies, or technologies that may become available to New Zealand. The evidence that is currently available does not provide enough support for the role of infrared thermography for either population screening or adjuvant diagnostic testing of breast cancer. The major gaps in knowledge at this time can only be addressed by large-scale, prospective randomised trials. More robust research on the effectiveness and costs of technologically advanced infrared thermography devices for population screening and diagnostic testing of breast cancer is needed, and the conclusions of this review should be revisited in the face of additional reliable evidence.

Project page URL
http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz/publications.htm

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Breast Neoplasms /diagnosis; Mass Screening; Thermography

Language Published
English

Country of organisation
New Zealand

Address for correspondence
Department of Public Health and General Practice, Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Otago, P.O. Box 4345, Christchurch, New Zealand. Tel: +64 3 364 1145, Fax: +64 3 364 1152; Email: susan.bidwell@chmeds.ac.nz

AccessionNumber
32004000662

Date bibliographic record published
11/08/2004

Date abstract record published
11/08/2004