
Doxorubicin-eluting beads (DC Bead, DC Bead M1 and Radiopaque DC Bead) for hepatocellular carcinoma

NIHR HSRIC

Record Status

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Authors' objectives

Hepatocellular carcinoma is the most common type of liver cancer. Most cases of hepatocellular carcinoma are caused by cirrhosis, a condition associated with damage and scarring to the liver. This is often caused by excessive alcohol intake or having long term infections with hepatitis B or C. It is more common in men than women and typically affects older people. DC Bead consists of beads that are designed to release doxorubicin, a chemotherapy drug, at a slow rate at the site of the cancer. This is delivered directly to the hepatic artery, a blood vessel that supplies blood to the liver. Studies have shown that DC Bead delivers doxorubicin to the tumour without the drug spreading to healthy tissue. DC Bead is already used to treat hepatocellular carcinoma in the UK.

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