Cardioprotection against the toxic effects of anthracyclines given to children with cancer: a systematic review

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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
"The main objective of this study was to evaluate the technologies used to reduce anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity in children. Other objectives included evaluating cardiac markers to quantify cardiotoxicity, and identifying cost-effectiveness studies and future research priorities."

(from executive summary)

Authors' conclusions
It is difficult to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of technologies for reducing or preventing cardiotoxicity and about the use of cardiac markers in children as the evidence is limited in quantity and quality. The lack of standardisation for monitoring and reporting cardiac performance is problematic. Not all studies report effectiveness in terms of cardiac outcomes and event-free survival with supporting statistical analyses. Studies are mostly small and of short duration, making generalisation difficult.

Implications for service provision Increasing numbers of survivors of childhood cancer treated with anthracyclines will experience cardiac damage and require long-term surveillance and management. This will have an impact on cardiac services and costs. Diverse medical problems and other late sequelae which affect cardiac outcome will have an impact on other specialist services. Mechanisms to reduce or prevent cardiotoxicity from anthracycline therapy and cardiac markers to improve monitoring could alter the extent of this impact on service provision.

Project page URL
http://www.hta.ac.uk/1496

INAHTA brief and checklist

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Anthracyclines /therapeutic use; Child; Neoplasms

Language Published
English

Country of organisation
England
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AccessionNumber
32007000527

Date bibliographic record published
23/10/2007

Date abstract record published
23/10/2007