Systematic review for effectiveness of hyaluronic acid in the treatment of severe degenerative joint disease (DJD) of the knee


Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
The Coverage and Analysis Group at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requested from The Technology Assessment Program (TAP) at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), a review of the evidence that intraarticular injections of hyaluronic acid (HA) in individuals with degenerative joint disease (osteoarthritis [HA]) of the knee improve function and quality of life (QoL) and that they delay or prevent the need for total knee replacement (TKR), specifically for individuals age 65 and over.

Authors' conclusions
Trials enrolling older participants show a small, statistically significant effect of HA on function and relatively few serious adverse events; however no studies limited participation to those 65 years or older. No conclusions can be drawn from the available literature on delay or avoidance of TKR through the use of HA. Studies that can compare large numbers of treated and untreated individuals, preferably with a randomized design, are needed to answer this question.

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