

---

**The effectiveness of diagnostic tests for the assessment of shoulder pain due to soft tissue disorders: a systematic review**

*Dinnes J, Loveman E, McIntyre L, Waugh N*

---

**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**

Dinnes J, Loveman E, McIntyre L, Waugh N. The effectiveness of diagnostic tests for the assessment of shoulder pain due to soft tissue disorders: a systematic review. *Health Technology Assessment* 2003; 7(29): 1-178

**Authors' objectives**

To evaluate the evidence for the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the newer diagnostic imaging tests as an addition to clinical examination and patient history for the diagnosis of soft tissue shoulder disorders.

**Authors' conclusions**

Our results suggest that clinical examination by specialists can rule out the presence of a RCT, and that either MRI or ultrasound could equally be used for detection of full-thickness RCTs. Although still not by any means accurate, ultrasound may be better at picking up partial tears. Given the large differential in the cost of the two procedures, the implication from current evidence is that ultrasound is the more cost-effective test to use in a specialist hospital setting for identification of full-thickness tears. Whether or not these results are transferable to settings with lower prevalence, different spectra of disease and less-specialised clinicians, such as in primary care, remains to be determined.

**Project page URL**

<http://www.hta.ac.uk/1272>

**INAHTA brief and checklist**

<http://www.inahta.org/Publications/Briefs-Checklist-Impact/20032/200413-The-Effectiveness-of-Diagnostic-Tests-for-the-Assessment-of-Shoulder-Pain-due-to-Soft-Tissue-Disorders-A-Systematic-Review/>

**Indexing Status**

Subject indexing assigned by CRD

**MeSH**

Arthrography; Arthroscopy; Costs and Cost Analysis; Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Pain; Shoulder /injuries; Ultrasonography

**Language Published**

English

**Country of organisation**

England

**Address for correspondence**

NETSCC, Health Technology Assessment, Alpha House, University of Southampton Science Park, Southampton, SO16 7NS UK Tel: +44 23 8059 5586 Email: [hta@hta.ac.uk](mailto:hta@hta.ac.uk)

**AccessionNumber**

32003001158

**Date bibliographic record published**

12/12/2003

**Date abstract record published**

12/12/2003