Percutaneous radiofrequency ablation of renal cancer

Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
This study aims to assess the current evidence on the safety and efficacy of percutaneous radiofrequency ablation of renal cancer.

Authors' conclusions
Guidance 1.1 Limited evidence suggests that percutaneous radiofrequency ablation (RFA) of renal cancer brings about reduction of tumour bulk and that the procedure is adequately safe. However, the evidence of its effect on symptom control and survival is not yet adequate to support the use of this procedure without special arrangements for consent and for audit or research.

1.2 Patient selection is important and the procedure should normally be limited to patients who are unsuitable for surgery. The procedure should only be offered after assessment by a specialist multidisciplinary team, which should include a urologist and an interventional radiologist.

1.3 Clinicians wishing to undertake percutaneous radiofrequency ablation of renal cancer should take the following actions. - Ensure that patients offered it understand the uncertainty about the procedures efficacy and provide them with clear written information. Use of the Institute's Information for the Public is recommended. - Audit and review clinical outcomes of all patients having radiofrequency ablation of renal cancer.

1.4 Controlled research into the long-term clinical outcomes will be useful in reducing the current uncertainty. The Institute may review the procedure upon publication of further evidence.

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