

Project scope: Outpatient biopsies: disposable and re-usable biopsy equipment

05/07/2022

Research question

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has been asked to evaluate the clinical and cost-effectiveness of adding the use of disposable (single use) biopsy equipment in an outpatient setting to the diagnostic pathway of suspicious laryngeal/pharyngeal lesions in NHSScotland. Additionally, HIS has agreed to update its assessment of outpatient biopsy for diagnosis of suspicious lesions of the larynx pharynx and tongue base from 2018, found here: <https://shtg.scot/our-advice/outpatient-biopsy-for-diagnosis-of-suspicious-lesions-of-the-larynx-pharynx-and-tongue-base/>

To do this, the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) will conduct a systematic literature review on the diagnostic accuracy, impact on waiting times and patient and clinician reported outcomes associated with outpatient biopsy procedures (disposable and re-usable biopsy equipment). If data are available, this would be supplemented by results from an ongoing feasibility study in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

SHTG plans to conduct an economic evaluation in the form of a cost-comparison analysis, supplemented by a budget impact analysis. If available, the economic evaluation will utilise data from ongoing feasibility study in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

The results will be used to inform decision-making in NHSScotland on the feasibility of using disposable and re-usable biopsy equipment in the diagnostic pathway of suspicious laryngeal/pharyngeal lesions.

Inclusion criteria

The selection of studies for inclusion in the literature review and economic evaluation element of the project will be based on the following criteria:

Population	Adult patients with suspicious laryngeal/pharyngeal lesions who need a biopsy and are referred via the Urgent Suspicion of Cancer (USOC) pathway
Intervention	Biopsy procedure using disposable (single use) equipment

	In-office biopsy procedure using reusable equipment
Comparator	Inpatient biopsy procedure under general anaesthesia In-office biopsy procedure using reusable equipment
Outcomes	Outcomes include but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic accuracy • Procedural complications • Impact on waiting times and their knock-on effect on patient outcomes such as cancer recurrence rates and survival • Cost-effectiveness (if possible) • Budget impact • Environmental costs (if possible) • Patient and clinician reported outcomes
Limits	N/A

Planned activities

SHTG have agreed on the following activities to support the development of Recommendation on the use of disposable biopsy kits for diagnosing adult patients with suspicious laryngeal/pharyngeal lesions who need a biopsy and are referred via the Urgent Suspicion of Cancer (USOC) pathway in NHSScotland:

1. Conduct a systematic literature review, develop a cost-comparison analysis, if possible, and a budget impact analysis as part of the health technology assessment process
2. Engagement and consultation with peer reviewers and public partners

End products

At the end of the project, SHTG will publish:

- SHTG Recommendation, following internal and external peer-review, consultation and consensus with Evidence Review Team (ERT) and SHTG council members
- Plain Language Summary

Timescales (approximate)

January 2023