

Project scope: Capsule sponge endoscopy

11 August 2023

Research question

Is capsule sponge endoscopy an effective and acceptable alternative to endoscopy for the detection of pre-malignant (Barrett's oesophagus) or early stage oesophageal cancer?

Inclusion criteria

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

Population	Adult patients with gastro-oesophageal reflux Adult patients with suspected Barrett's oesophagus Adult patients undergoing surveillance for Barrett's oesophagus or oesophageal cancer
Intervention	Cytosponge EndoSign 'sponge on a string' Capsule sponge Possible other related terms: Non-endoscopic cytology* Non-endoscopic screening Trefoil factor 3 testing
Comparator	Endoscopy
Outcomes	Diagnostic accuracy (sensitivity, specificity, etc) Detection rates (dysplasia, Barrett's oesophagus, oesophageal cancer) Number of endoscopies required Triage or risk stratification

	Safety/adverse events Patient satisfaction, experiences, views, acceptability, preferences Cost effectiveness
Limits	English language Published since 2010 (date of oldest paper previously identified on Cytosponge)

Planned activities

SHTG have agreed on the following activities to support the development of an SHTG Assessment on capsule sponge endoscopy:

1. Evidence review of the published literature on the clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness, safety and patient aspects of capsule sponge endoscopy for the detection of pre-malignant (Barrett's oesophagus) and early stage oesophageal cancer.
2. Scotland specific cost modelling based on adding capsule sponge endoscopy to the diagnostic pathway for pre-malignant (Barrett's oesophagus) and early stage oesophageal cancer.
3. Plain language version of the evidence review.
4. Engagement with clinical experts through peer review.

End products

At the end of the project, SHTG will publish:

- SHTG Assessment
- Scientific Advice reports on Scottish data
- Plain language summary
- Expert comments from peer review

Timescales (approximate)

Approximate publication date at end of November 2023.