Non-invasive preoperative imaging

Study	Pata G, Casella C, Magri GC, Lucchini S, Panarotto MB, Crea N et al. Financial and clinical implications of low-energy CT combined with 99m Technetium-sestamibi SPECT for primary hyperparathyroidism. Annals of Surgical Oncology. 2011; 18(9):2555-63			
Study details	Population & interventions	Costs	Health outcomes	Cost effectiveness
Economic analysis: CC Study design: Within-cohort study analysis. Approach to analysis: Analysis of individual level data for resource use (primarily diagnostic test costs and operating times associated with SPECT or SPECT/CT localisation). Unit costs applied. Perspective: Italian direct healthcare and medical costs. Follow-up: 6 months Treatment effect duration: n/a Discounting: Costs: n/a; Outcomes: n/a	Population: People diagnosed with PHPT who underwent parathyroidectomy Cohort settings: N=55 Start age: 56 Male: 12 Intervention 1: SPECT followed by unilateral neck exploration on side suggested by imaging Intervention 2: SPECT/CT followed by unilateral neck exploration on side suggested by imaging	Total costs (mean per patient): Intervention 1: NR Intervention 2: NR Incremental (2–1):cost saving of £91 (95% CI: £44 - £138; p=NR) Currency & cost year: 2009 Euros (presented here as 2009 UK pounds ^(a))] Cost components incorporated: equipment costs (including maintenance and depreciation), diagnostic costs (SPECT and SPECT/CT), surgical costs (calculated by duration of operation, using salary of 2 surgeons, an anaesthesiologist, 2 nurses and a nurse assistant; also includes cost of general anaesthesia), cost of postoperative care, cost of hospitalization.	None.	ICER (Intervention 2 versus Intervention 1): n/a Analysis of uncertainty: None undertaken.

Data sources

Health outcomes: None. Cost sources: Brescia Civic Hospital, Italy (data from one hospital).

Comments

Source of funding: NR. **Limitations:** Italian resource use (2004-2009) and unit costs (2009) data may not reflect current NHS context. QALYs not used as outcome measure. Analysis is based on a cohort study. Within-study analysis and so does not reflect full body of evidence. No exploration of uncertainty. **Other:** None

Overall applicability:^(b) Partially applicable **Overall quality:**^(c) Potentially serious limitations

Abbreviations: CC: comparative costing; ICER: incremental cost-effectiveness ratio; n/a: not applicable; NR: not reported; pa: probabilistic analysis;

(a) Converted using purchasing power parities³⁵⁴Directly applicable / Partially applicable / Not applicable

(b) Minor limitations / Potentially serious limitations / Very serious limitations

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