TITLE: Scoop Stretchers versus Standard Backboards for Patients Requiring Pre-Hospital Spinal Immobilization: Comparative Effectiveness and Guidelines

DATE: 04 November 2010

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the comparative effectiveness of scoop stretchers versus traditional backboards for spinal immobilization and patient securement for pre-hospital transfer of patients with suspected spinal cord injury?

2. What is the comparative evidence on patient comfort and reduced risk of skin and pressure point complications during prolonged transport with scoop stretchers and traditional backboards?

3. What are the guidelines for the use of scoop stretchers to ensure safe usage and patient transfer?

KEY MESSAGE

No guidelines for the use or relevant information pertaining to the clinical effectiveness of scoop stretchers for pre-hospital transfer or transport of patients with suspected spinal cord injury were identified.

METHODS

A focused search (main concepts appeared in title or subject heading) was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, EBSCOhost CINAHL, the Cochrane Library (Issue 10, 2010), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between January 1, 2005 and October 27, 2010. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and guidelines. Internet links were provided, where available.
RESULTS

No relevant health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, or evidence-based guidelines were identified pertaining to the clinical effectiveness or guidelines for the use of scoop stretchers for patients with suspected spinal cord injury. Information that may be of interest, including safety recalls, is included in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

No relevant information was identified; therefore no summary can be presented pertaining to the effectiveness or guidelines for the use of scoop stretchers for pre-hospital transfer or transport of patients with suspected spinal cord injury.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified.

Non-randomized studies
No literature identified.

Guidelines and recommendations
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses- Scoop stretcher inclusion unclear


Non-randomized studies- simulation


Additional references


