Title: Histofreezer versus Liquid Nitrogen on an Outpatient Basis

Date: June 11, 2007

Research question: What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of Histofreezer and liquid nitrogen for use on an outpatient basis? What is the comparative cost-effectiveness of Histofreezer and liquid nitrogen for use on an outpatient basis? What are the evidence-based guidelines for use of Histofreezer or liquid nitrogen for use on an outpatient basis?

Methods: A literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (Issue 2, 2007), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI's HTAIS and Health Devices Gold, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include English language publications from 1997 to date. Links to online full-text or abstracts are provided when available.

Results:
No recent high-quality evidence (i.e., last ten years) was found on the use of Histofreezer alone or compared to liquid nitrogen. However, four narrative review articles were found related to the topic and can be found in the Appendix, along with an observational study that reported on the safety of liquid nitrogen.

Health technology assessments:
None found

Systematic reviews:
None found

General guidelines and recommendations:
None found

Disclaimer: The Health Technology Inquiry Service (HTIS) is an information service for those involved in planning and providing health care in Canada. HTIS responses are based on a limited literature search and are not comprehensive, systematic reviews. The intent is to provide a list of sources of the best evidence on the topic that CADTH could identify using all reasonable efforts within the time allowed. HTIS responses should be considered along with other types of information and health care considerations. The information included in this response is not intended to replace professional medical advice, nor should it be construed as a recommendation for or against the use of a particular health technology. Readers are also cautioned that a lack of good quality evidence does not necessarily mean a lack of effectiveness particularly in the case of new and emerging health technologies, for which little information can be found, but which may in future prove to be effective. While CADTH has taken care in the preparation of the report to ensure that its contents are accurate, complete and up to date, CADTH does not make any guarantee to that effect. CADTH is not liable for any loss or damages resulting from use of the information in the report.

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Economic evaluations:
None found

Randomized controlled trials:
None found

Observational studies:
None found

Prepared by: Kristen Moulton, B.A., Research Assistant
Monika Mierzwinski-Urban, M.L.I.S., Information Specialist
Amanda Hodgson, M.L.I.S., Information Specialist
Health Technology Inquiry Service
Email: htis@cadth.ca
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
Appendix – Further information

Review articles:


Observational studies: