



Title	High Focused Ultrasound (HIFU)-Albatherm® for Prostate Cancer
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Reference	Technology Review Report, 004/09. http://medicaldev.moh.gov.my/uploads/tr_2009/hifu.pdf

Aim

To determine the safety, effectiveness, and cost effectiveness of high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) Albatherm® in treating prostate cancer.

of only the Albatherm® HIFU were reviewed.

Further research/reviews required

More research is warranted.

Conclusions and results

The most common complications noted in studies of case series were stress urinary incontinence, urinary tract infection, urethral/bladder neck stenosis or strictures, and erectile dysfunction. The rate of these complications appears to have been reduced with Albatherm® because of technical improvements in the device.

No randomized trials are available on Albatherm® HIFU in the treatment of prostate cancer. All of the evidence on the effectiveness of primary treatment, or even salvage therapy, came from reports of case series or observational studies.

No evidence supports the cost effectiveness of HIFU in treating prostate cancer.

Recommendations

HIFU can be used in a research setting, but is not recommended for standard clinical practice.

Methods

The electronic database search for published reports included: PubMed, ProQuest, EBSCO Host, MEDLINE, CINAHL, Cochrane database of systematic reviews, HTA Databases, Horizon scanning databases (EUROSCAN), and the FDA website. Additional articles were identified by reviewing the bibliographies of retrieved articles.

The search strategy used the following terms, either alone or in various combinations: “high intensity focused ultrasound”, HIFU, “prostate cancer”, transrectal, therapeutic ultrasound, effective*, safe*, side effects, cost*.

All published articles (primary and secondary research) relating to the safety, effectiveness, and cost effectiveness