



Title	Systematic Reviews for Localized Prostate Cancer
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Reference	VA Technology Assessment Program Brief Overview, September, 2009. www.va.gov/VATAP/docs/Localizedprostatecancer2011.pdf

Aim

To review the literature in support of using brachytherapy to treat men with localized prostate cancer.

Conclusions and results

Nineteen systematic reviews met the inclusion criteria. Current research evidence is insufficient to definitively determine which prostate cancer treatment is best, but brachytherapy outcomes seem equivalent to other treatment options.

Recommendations

This Brief reviews the Veteran Health Administration's (VHA) patient-centered prostate cancer treatment guidelines.

Methods

The literature was searched in the following databases for review articles published in English between 2000 and 2009: MEDLINE, Cochrane Library, and INAHTA. Search terms were: "localized prostate cancer" and "brachytherapy" along with publication types (systematic review, meta-analysis, economic evaluation).

Further research/reviews required

Two randomized controlled trials are under way. The VHA Prostate Cancer Intervention Versus Observation Trial focuses on mortality and is due for completion in 2010. The Oxford Radcliffe Hospital trial on prostate cancer survival, quality of life, and costs is expected to be completed in 2013.