



Title Directional Vacuum-assisted (DV) Breast Biopsy, October 1999

Agency MSAC, Medical Services Advisory Committee

Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia;
tel: +61 2 6289 6811, fax: +61 2 62 6289 8799, msac.secretariat@msac.gov.au, www.msac.gov.au

Reference MSAC application 1015. Assessment report, ISSN 1443-7120.

Aim

To assess the safety and effectiveness of the procedure, and under what circumstances public funding should be supported for the procedure.

Conclusions and results

Safety: DV breast biopsy is safe.

Effectiveness: Comparative studies (level III-3 evidence) suggest that compared to core biopsy, DV breast biopsy:

1. Has a higher success rate in the removal of microcalcifications,
2. Is able to obtain larger numbers of specimens at biopsy, and
3. Has increased sensitivity in detecting ductal carcinoma in situ and atypical ductal hyperplasia.

DV breast biopsy seems to be a more effective diagnostic method for non-palpable breast abnormalities.

Cost-effectiveness: This was not undertaken. Some items used in DV are more expensive than with core biopsy.

Recommendations

DV breast biopsy for non-palpable breast lesions should receive higher remuneration than currently available, pending a review of the costs of the procedure.

Method

MSAC conducted a systematic review of medical literature on DV from 1975 until August 1998 using the MEDLINE, HealthSTAR, and Cochrane Library databases.