



Title	Percutaneous Vertebroplasty. Pain Management of Osteoporotic Vertebral Fractures
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Aim

To contribute to an analysis and assessment of the economic and organizational consequences of introducing percutaneous vertebroplasty (PVP) as a mode of treatment that may supplement or replace conservative pain management of patients with osteoporotic vertebral fractures.

Conclusions and results

PVP is an effective and safe procedure for treating pain caused by osteoporotic vertebral fractures (80% to 90% of PVP-treated patients report total or significant pain relief). However, the documentation consists only of nonrandomized clinical trials without control groups, and patient populations are not well defined. Furthermore, no studies are available on the patients' short- or long-term functional level, rehabilitation, or quality of life following PVP treatment compared to conservative treatment.

Calculations indicate that there is no cost differential between PVP treatment and a conservative pain management pathway. However, the figures are somewhat uncertain. It is not possible to examine the cost effectiveness of PVP since there are no comparable data on the effect of PVP versus the effect of conservative pain management.

Recommendations

To determine the cost-saving potential for each individual institution it is necessary to perform more detailed local analysis, with a view toward reducing the number of bed days. The reduction should be achieved by increasing efficiency through planning, cooperation, and administration. This work should be undertaken locally and regionally/nationally in connection with the organization of the specialty service.

Methods

Analysis of the technology involved and the patient perspective is based on a systematic search and assess-

ment of the literature. Analysis of the organizational and economic aspects is based on studies of literature, data, extracts from registers, and a sample inquiry.

Further research/reviews required

In Denmark, at least 3 randomized clinical trials in which PVP is offered as an alternative to conservative treatment are already being planned or initiated. Experiences from these trials will be crucial when it comes to determining whether and, if so, how PVP should be implemented in the Danish health service.