



Effective Health Care

Imaging for Preoperative Staging and Treatment Selection in Rectal Cancer

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Imaging for preoperative staging and treatment selection in rectal cancer was found to be addressed by a 2011 evidence review titled *The Diagnosis and Management of Colorectal Cancer* by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Given that the existing review covers this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
 - National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. The diagnosis and management of colorectal cancer: evidence review. November 2011. Available at: <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG131>

Topic Description

Nominator: Organization

Nomination Summary: The nominators question the comparative effectiveness of different imaging modalities alone or in combination for improvements in tumor staging, prediction of tumor-free resection margins, and treatment selection in patients with newly diagnosed rectal cancer.

Staff-Generated PICO

Population(s): Adults with newly diagnosed resectable rectal cancer

Intervention(s): Computerized tomography (CT) scans, positron emission tomography (PET), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), endorectal ultrasound (ERUS)

Comparator(s): Comparative effectiveness of modalities alone or in combination

Outcome(s): Appropriate tumor staging, accurate prediction of tumor-free resection margin, local recurrence rates, quality of life, overall survival, appropriate treatment selection, reduced need for reoperation, harms from inappropriate tumor staging leading to potential inappropriate treatment selection or need for reoperation due to inadequate margin resection

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. For patients with rectal cancer, what is the comparative effectiveness of different imaging modalities, alone or in combination (i.e., incremental benefit from using more than one modality), for preoperative staging and treatment selection?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)

- This topic was found to be addressed by an existing high-quality evidence review by NICE titled *The Diagnosis and Management of Colorectal Cancer*. The review addresses the comparative effectiveness of techniques to accurately stage colorectal cancer. The recommendations from NICE based on this review appear to be in good agreement with recent guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and the American College of Radiology; therefore, a new review at this time is unlikely to affect practice.