

VP191 Peripheral Nerve Field Stimulation For Chronic Low Back Pain

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INTRODUCTION:

Despite numerous medical, pharmacological and surgical approaches for chronic low back pain (LBP), many patients continue to complain of severe disabling pain. Peripheral nerve field stimulation (PNfS), alone or combined with spinal cord stimulation, is a neuromodulation procedure that have been recently developed and implemented in our hospital. We conducted a Health Technology Assessment (HTA) to determine if PNfS may be considered as a standard of practice in the management of intractable LBP and failed back surgery syndrome (FBSS).

METHODS:

An interdisciplinary group of experts was involved in the project. A systematic review (SR) was performed in several databases and grey literature to identify clinical practice guidelines, SR and observational studies published through September 2016. A survey was conducted among other chronic pain centers in Canada to document PNfS use in LBP and FBSS treatment.

RESULTS:

Data on effectiveness and safety of PNfS in chronic LBP treatment were scarce. Short-term results (3-12 months) from small sample and low quality studies suggest that PNfS, alone or combined with spinal cord stimulation, is associated with pain intensity and opioid use reductions. Effects on functional status and quality of life remain undetermined. Most frequent adverse events reported with PNfS devices are lead migrations, discomfort or pain and surgical site infections. No other Canadian pain centers were found to use PNfS in chronic LBP or FBSS.

CONCLUSIONS:

PNfS is potentially a beneficial treatment option for patients with chronic low back pain or FBSS. However, the value of this innovative treatment remains unknown. Among factors to be clarified are target population (any chronic low back pain or FBSS), use of PNfS alone or combined with spinal cord stimulation, long-term effects, and comparison with conventional medical management. PNfS use in chronic LBP has to be assessed through a rigorous framework before its introduction as a standard medical practice.

VP192 Importance Of Contextual Data In Producing Health Technology Assessment Recommendations

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INTRODUCTION:

Available data in the scientific literature is not always sufficient to make a clear Health Technology Assessment (HTA) recommendation without any other source of data. Contextual data and local expertise are an important source of data that cannot be ignored in HTA process. Despite a lack of evidence in the scientific literature, a technology can be recommended in a given context. We illustrate this by a case study about biplane angiography for vascular neurointervention.

METHODS:

A systematic review was conducted. The level of evidence was assessed by the grid of Downs and Black. An analysis of the context in our setting was also conducted. The main outcomes were: radiation doses, clinical complications, procedure times, purchase cost, impact on teaching programs, confidence of clinicians in the technology, quality of care, and volume of activity. A committee constituted of managers, clinical experts, physicians, physicists and HTA experts was