

IQWiG Reports – Commission No. H16-02E

Ultrasound-guided high-intensity focused ultrasound therapy for secondary malignant neoplasms of the liver and intrahepatic bile ducts¹

Executive Summary

¹ Translation of the executive summary of the assessment according to §137h Social Code Book (SGB) V *Sonografiegesteuerte hochfokussierte Ultraschalltherapie bei sekundären bösartigen Neubildungen der Leber und der intrahepatischen Gallengänge* (Version 1.0; Status: 30 January 2017). Please note: This translation is provided as a service by IQWiG to English-language readers. However, solely the German original text is absolutely authoritative and legally binding.

Publishing details

Publisher:

Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care

Topic:

Ultrasound-guided high-intensity focused ultrasound therapy for secondary malignant neoplasms of the liver and intrahepatic bile ducts

Commissioning agency:

Federal Joint Committee

Commission awarded on:

19 December 2016

Internal Commission No.:

H16-02E

Address of publisher:

Institut für Qualität und Wirtschaftlichkeit im Gesundheitswesen
Im Mediapark 8
50670 Köln
Germany

Phone: +49 221 35685-0

Fax: +49 221 35685-1

E-mail: berichte@iqwig.de

Internet: www.iqwig.de

Medical-scientific advice:

- Matthias Breidert, Kösching Hospital, Kösching, Germany

IQWiG thanks the medical-scientific advisor for his contribution to the §137h assessment. The sole responsibility for the content of this assessment lies with IQWiG.

IQWiG employees involved in the assessment:²

- Nadine Reinhardt
- Konstanze Angelescu
- Lars Beckmann
- Elke Hausner
- Stefan Sauerland

Keywords: high-intensity focused ultrasound ablation, liver neoplasms/secondary, assessment of potential, benefit assessment

² Due to legal data protection regulations, employees have the right not to be named.

Executive summary

The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) commissioned the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) to assess the method of ultrasound-guided high-intensity focused ultrasound therapy (USgHIFU) for secondary malignant neoplasms of the liver and intrahepatic bile ducts according to §137h Social Code Book (SGB) V – Statutory Health Insurance. The therapeutic indication to be assessed was restricted by the requesting hospital to neoplasms not treatable by surgery. The assessment documents were transferred to IQWiG on 19 December 2016.

According to the requesting hospital, USgHIFU for secondary malignant neoplasms of the liver and intrahepatic bile ducts represents a non-invasive treatment option for unresectable secondary liver tumours, especially if these are in the vicinity of blood vessels and/or are larger than 5 cm.

One small case series (n = 17) with minimum certainty of results was available for the assessment, which, as the sole data pool, was insufficient to justify a potential. It did not contain a sufficient description of patient characteristics, and information was also lacking on potential concomitant therapy, so that it was not evaluable to what extent the results could be ascribed to treatment with USgHIFU. In addition, it was not evaluable to what extent the results observed under USgHIFU differed from other therapies, as no data were available in this regard.

Overall, on the basis of the assessment documents submitted, neither a benefit nor a potential of a required treatment alternative can be inferred for USgHIFU in secondary malignant neoplasms of the liver and the intrahepatic bile ducts. For this reason, no key points for a testing study are specified for the method.

The full report (German version) is published under <https://www.iqwig.de/en/projects-results/projects/non-drug-interventions/h16-02e-ultrasound-guided-high-intensity-focused-ultrasound-for-secondary-malignant-neoplasms-of-the-liver-and-the-intrahepatic-bile-ducts-assessment-according-to-137h-social-code-book-v.7719.html>.