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Amyloid PET in dementia of unclear aetiology¹

Extract

¹ Translation of the executive summary of the assessment of potential *Amyloid-PET bei Demenz unklarer Ätiologie* (Version 1.0; Status: 29 May 2018). 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.

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Executive summary

The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) commissioned the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) to assess the potential (acc. to §137e Social Code Book [SGB] V – statutory health insurance) of the amyloid positron emission tomography (amyloid PET) method in dementia of unclear aetiology. The application was transferred to IQWiG on 18 April 2018.

According to the applicant, amyloid PET serves to exclude or detect pathological protein deposits in the brain that are typical in patients with Alzheimer's disease. Amyloid PET is intended to provide an early, reliable diagnosis in unclear dementia syndrome compared with the guideline-compliant, standard diagnostic procedure without amyloid PET, on the basis of which patient management can be adapted.

A total of 8 studies were available for the assessment (4 single-arm observational studies, 3 studies to determine diagnostic accuracy, and 1 randomized controlled trial [RCT]).

Results from 1 RCT were primarily used to assess amyloid PET. The study shows that in patients with dementia of unclear aetiology, additional amyloid PET could be advantageous compared with the standard diagnostic procedure alone. This is because the PET diagnostic procedure led to medication changes that could possibly lead to better cognitive performance and fewer hospital stays. At the same time, there were no discernible disadvantages with regard to the other patient-relevant outcomes recorded.

On the basis of the application documents submitted for amyloid PET in patients with dementia of unclear aetiology, the potential of a necessary treatment alternative can thus be inferred.

A testing study that is suited to obtain the necessary information for the assessment of the method's benefit is basically possible.

The full report (German version) is published under <https://www.iqwig.de/en/projects-results/projects/non-drug-interventions/e18-03-amyloid-pet-in-dementia-of-unclear-aetiology.13080.html>.