

IQWiG Reports – Commission No. H16-02F

Ultrasound-guided high-intensity focused ultrasound therapy for malignant neoplasms of the bone and the articular cartilage¹

Executive Summary

¹ Translation of the executive summary of the assessment according to §137h Social Code Book (SGB) V *Sonografiegesteuerte hochfokussierte Ultraschalltherapie bei bösartigen Neubildungen des Knochens und des Gelenkknorpels* (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.

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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.

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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 ultrasound-guided high-intensity focused ultrasound therapy (USgHIFU) for malignant neoplasms of the bone and the articular cartilage 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, the method of USgHIFU aims to destroy tumour tissue in patients with unresectable malignant neoplasms of the bone and the articular cartilage of other and unspecified sites. The hospital also stated that USgHIFU can be used both alone and in combination with chemotherapy.

One case series primarily referring to osteosarcoma was available for the assessment. The corresponding results could not be used for the assessment, as the study largely included patients in whom the tumour was located in the leg or arm, had not metastasized, and was thus resectable following the German treatment standard.

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 unresectable malignant neoplasms of the bone and the articular cartilage.

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/h16-02f-ultrasound-guided-high-intensity-focused-ultrasound-for-malignant-neoplasms-of-the-bone-and-the-articular-cartilage-assessment-according-to-137h-social-code-book-v.7720.html>.