



IQWiG Reports – Commission No. N17-04

Interstitial low-dose-rate brachytherapy for localized prostate cancer¹

Extract

¹ Translation of the key statement of the rapid report N17-04 *Interstitielle Low-Dose-Rate-Brachytherapie beim lokal begrenzten Prostatakarzinom* (Version 1.0; Status: 19 October 2018). Please note: This document was translated by an external translator and 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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Key statement

Research question

The aim of this report is to

- update the benefit assessment of treatment with interstitial low-dose-rate (LDR) brachytherapy compared to treatment with the surgical standard treatment (radical prostatectomy), percutaneous radiotherapy, or monitoring strategies (for example active surveillance or watchful waiting)

in patients with localised prostate cancer with regard to patient-relevant outcomes.

Conclusion

The research performed to update the previous IQWiG benefit assessments N04-02 and N10-01 identified 2 further usable studies as well as 1 usable follow-up publication on a previously included study.

For the outcomes overall survival and disease-specific survival, no additional data which were not included in the previous IQWiG benefit assessment N10-01 were found. Hence, there was still no hint of benefit or harm for the two central outcomes for the curative objective of low-dose-rate brachytherapy when compared to all investigated treatment options (radical prostatectomy, percutaneous radiotherapy, monitoring strategies). However, this does not mean that the interventions are equivalent.

There were still no usable data for disease-free survival, and the results on the surrogate “recurrence-free survival based on prostate-specific antigen (PSA)” still do not allow a reliable assessment.

All other investigated outcomes were classified as treatment-related events which individually cannot support a benefit. In this area as well, there were no significant changes compared to the previous benefit assessment.

Given the lack of data, it is not possible to weigh the adverse effects of LDR brachytherapy against a potential benefit in terms of overall survival or disease-free survival.

The full report (German version) is published under
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