



IQWiG Reports – Commission No. H21-02

**Irreversible electroporation for
chronic bronchitis**
Addendum to commission H20-03¹

Extract

¹ Translation of the executive summary of the addendum H21-02: *Irreversible Elektroporation bei chronischer Bronchitis – Addendum zum Auftrag H20-03* (Version 1.0; Status: 12 May 2021). 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

In a letter dated 19 March 2021, the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) commissioned the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG), as an addendum to commission H20-03, to examine the conclusions of the assessment according to §137h Social Code Book (SGB) V on the benefit, harmfulness and ineffectiveness of the method “irreversible electroporation (IRE) for chronic bronchitis”.

Research question

The aim of the present investigation was to determine whether further relevant studies on IRE for chronic bronchitis exist besides the documents already used in the §137h assessment H20-03. If this was the case, it was to be examined whether, taking these into account, neither a benefit, harmfulness nor ineffectiveness could be identified for the examination or treatment method in question. Furthermore, it was to be examined whether, besides the studies already used in the §137h assessment, ongoing studies exist that are in principle suitable to provide relevant findings on the benefit, harmfulness or ineffectiveness of the method in the near future.

Methods

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) were to be included that investigated IRE for chronic bronchitis with regard to patient-relevant outcomes and had not already been used in the assessment according to §137h.

A systematic literature search for studies was conducted in MEDLINE, Embase, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials. In parallel, a search for relevant systematic reviews was conducted in MEDLINE, Embase, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, and the HTA Database. The search was conducted on 25 March 2021. In addition, the following information sources and search techniques were considered: study registries and screening of reference lists. The selection of relevant studies was performed by 2 reviewers independently of one another.

Results

No additional relevant completed or ongoing studies related to the present research question were identified in the information retrieval process. Furthermore, the study registry entry for the RheSolve study (NCT04677465) already known from the §137h assessment H20-03 was updated: The status was changed from “planned” to “recruiting”.

Conclusion

After systematic examination, there is still no evidence of a benefit, ineffectiveness or harmfulness of IRE for chronic bronchitis. Beyond the studies already considered in the §137h assessment, no additional completed or ongoing studies were found that would in principle be suitable to provide evidence of a benefit, ineffectiveness or harmfulness in the near future.

The full report (German version) is published under

<https://www.iqwig.de/projekte/h21-02.html>