The clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the PROGENSA® prostate cancer antigen 3 assay and the Prostate Health Index in the diagnosis of prostate cancer: a systematic review and economic evaluation

Amanda Nicholson, James Mahon, Angela Boland, Sophie Beale,* Kerry Dwan, Nigel Fleeman, Juliet Hockenhull and Yenal Dundar

Liverpool Reviews and Implementation Group, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

*Corresponding author

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Plain English summary

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Plain English summary

It can be difficult to diagnose prostate cancer. Currently, men suspected of having cancer are sent for a prostate biopsy. This procedure involves removing a small part of a man’s prostate and examining it under a microscope to find out if cancer is present. However, biopsies can miss cases of cancer. This means that some men may have several biopsies before the suspected cancer is found. The PROGENSA® prostate cancer antigen 3 assay (Hologic Gen-Probe, Marlborough, MA, USA) and the Prostate Health Index (Beckman Coulter Inc., Brea, CA, USA) are two new tests which may help avoid unnecessary biopsies. We reviewed all currently available information to find out whether or not these two new tests should be used in the NHS. We also built an economic model to find out whether or not the tests offer value for money to the NHS. We found no clear evidence that either of the two tests worked better than current practice (i.e. using only biopsies). Furthermore, results from the economic model showed that use of either of these tests would not represent value for money.
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This report

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