

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

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Declared competing interests of authors: none

Published October 2015

DOI: 10.3310/hta19870

Plain English summary

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Health Technology Assessment 2015; Vol. 19: No. 87

DOI: 10.3310/hta19870

NIHR Journals Library www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk

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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.

ISSN 1366-5278 (Print)

ISSN 2046-4924 (Online)

Impact factor: 5.116

Health Technology Assessment is indexed in MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, The Cochrane Library and the ISI Science Citation Index.

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This report

The research reported in this issue of the journal was commissioned and funded by the HTA programme on behalf of NICE as project number 14/03/01. The protocol was agreed in April 2014. The assessment report began editorial review in November 2014 and was accepted for publication in March 2015. The authors have been wholly responsible for all data collection, analysis and interpretation, and for writing up their work. The HTA editors and publisher have tried to ensure the accuracy of the authors' report and would like to thank the reviewers for their constructive comments on the draft document. However, they do not accept liability for damages or losses arising from material published in this report.

This report presents independent research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The views and opinions expressed by authors in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the NHS, the NIHR, NETSCC, the HTA programme or the Department of Health. If there are verbatim quotations included in this publication the views and opinions expressed by the interviewees are those of the interviewees and do not necessarily reflect those of the authors, those of the NHS, the NIHR, NETSCC, the HTA programme or the Department of Health.

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