

# SeHCAT (tauroselcholic [<sup>75</sup>selenium] acid) for the investigation of bile acid diarrhoea in adults: a systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis

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## Declared competing interests of authors

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## Plain English summary

SeHCAT for adult bile acid diarrhoea

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## Plain English summary

**B**ile acids are produced in the liver; they are important for the digestion and absorption of fats and some vitamins in the small bowel. Usually, most bile acids are absorbed before the colon, but, when this does not happen, they can cause chronic diarrhoea. Tauroselcholic [<sup>75</sup>selenium] acid (SeHCAT™) (GE Healthcare, Chicago, IL, USA) is a test that may help to tell whether or not diarrhoea is being caused by problems with bile acids. It involves swallowing a capsule containing a very slightly radioactive tracer and imaging with a special camera, shortly after swallowing the capsule and after 1 week.

The purpose of this project was to collect and assess the research evidence on the benefits, risks and value for money of SeHCAT testing among people with chronic diarrhoea with an unknown cause. The assessment focused on people with suspected or diagnosed irritable bowel syndrome or functional diarrhoea and people with a diagnosis of Crohn's disease who have not had bowel surgery.

Our research found that, although lots of SeHCAT testing is done in UK hospitals, there is a surprising lack of evidence about whether or not SeHCAT testing results in more patients with chronic diarrhoea being successfully treated and whether or not patients prefer to be tested before trying a treatment for bile acid diarrhoea. There was also a lot of uncertainty about whether or not SeHCAT testing could provide value for money; the main reason for this uncertainty is the lack of good-quality evidence.

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## This report

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