

LIVERPOOL REVIEWS AND IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (LRiG)

MRI-based technologies for the assessment of patients with non- alcoholic fatty liver disease [DAP59]

EAG Report: Addendum

This report was commissioned by the
NIHR Evidence Synthesis Programme
as project number 135067

Completed 17th May 2022

Copyright belongs to the Liverpool Reviews
and Implementation Group



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

LIVERPOOL
REVIEWS AND
IMPLEMENTATION
GROUP

1 INTRODUCTION

In this Addendum, the EAG has included the following information:

1. Text and analyses in response to NICE requests for clarification (Section 2)
2. Updated EAG report tables (correct T3 and new T8) (Section 3)

All the tables in this document include updated cT1 accuracy data used to populate diagnostic test strategy T8 (using new information provided by Perspectum Ltd). The original EAG report included T8 data based on a cT1 algorithm that is no longer used. Perspectum Ltd re-analysed the high-risk data presented in the Eddowes publication using the new algorithm to bring the high-risk data (used to populate the T8 strategy) in line with the data for the other test strategies (T1 to T7).

1.1 Checking for non-linearity in the model

The EAG model is a single node decision tree and, therefore, is linear by design. Thus, exploring the impact of non-linearity by undertaking PSA is not relevant.

The NICE lead team requested that non-linearity was confirmed through increasing and decreasing model parameters by $\pm 20\%$, averaging the incremental cost effectiveness ratios (ICERs per QALY gained) from these analyses and comparing them with the deterministic base case ICERs per QALY gained. The EAG performed this analysis. The results (Table 1) showed that, depending on the test strategy, the differences between the ICERs per QALY gained generated from averaging results from the $\pm 20\%$ analyses and the deterministic ICERs per QALY gained were between 0.01% and 0.02%.

The analysis shows that even if the EAG is wrong about the structural linearity of the model, the analyses performed show that any impact of non-linearity is not important for decision making.

Table 1 Comparison of model cost effectiveness results: deterministic versus average of $\pm 20\%$ of base case parameters

Diagnostic test strategy		LiverMultiScan Deterministic ICER per QALY	Model parameters +20%	Model parameters -20%	Average of model parameters $\pm 20\%$	Average $\pm 20\%$ ICER minus deterministic ICER per QALY	Percentage difference
T1	Any fibrosis ($\geq F1$)	-£359,666	-£363,934	-£355,497	-£359,715	-£49	0.01%
T2	Significant fibrosis ($\geq F2$)	-£190,779	-£193,291	-£188,326	-£190,809	-£30	0.02%
T3	Advanced fibrosis ($\geq F3$)	-£980,001	-£995,379	-£964,977	-£980,178	-£177	0.02%
T4	Brunt Grade ≥ 1	-£148,132	-£149,604	-£146,694	-£148,149	-£17	0.01%
T5	Brunt Grade ≥ 2	£1,266,511	£1,287,758	£1,245,752	£1,266,755	-£244	0.02%
T6	NASH (NAS ≥ 4 , ≥ 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	-£381,324	-£386,941	-£375,835	-£381,388	-£65	0.02%
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS ≥ 4 , $\geq F2$)	-£973,592	-£988,866	-£958,670	-£973,768	-£176	0.02%
T8	High risk (NASH or $> F1$)	-£101,002	-£102,049	-£99,978	-£101,013	-£11	0.01%

F=stage of fibrosis; ICER=incremental cost effectiveness ratio; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year

1.1 No use of a second LiverMultiScan for people with a result <800ms

When considering how to reach a correct diagnosis as promptly as possible, implementing the EAG approach (i.e., constructing a model using the assumptions that (i) everyone with a negative result from an initial LMS test has a second LMS after 6 months, regardless of cT1 score, and (ii) that results from the second LMS test are always 100% accurate at 6 months), is the most optimistic scenario for the population with false negative results after an initial LMS test. However, this approach potentially also introduces the cost of a second LMS at 6 months that is unnecessary for those with true negative results from an initial LMS test.

The results provided by Eddowes/Perspectum Ltd (14th December 2021) suggested that 18.5% of patients with indeterminate results from previous fibrosis testing who are sent for biopsy have a cT1 score <800ms and 55.6% of these patients have fibrosis ($F \geq 1$). The prevalence of $F \geq 2$ and $F \geq 3$ for patients with a cT1 score <800ms could not be calculated by the EAG from the available data.

Based on Eddowes/Perspectum Ltd data, it can be determined that 47.3% of patients have a cT1 score <875ms (and will therefore have a negative result in strategies with a cT1 cut-off score of 875ms) and, of these, 39.1% will have a cT1 score <800ms. This means that, of those patients with a cT1 score <875ms, 60.9% will have a score of 800-875ms. The EAG therefore ran a scenario where, for strategies with a cut-off score of 875ms, only 60.9% of patients had a second LiverMultiScan at 6 months and where the cut-off score was 800ms, no patients had a second LiverMultiScan. In this scenario, any QALY loss from a false negative only occurs for 6 months, even if patients with a false negative result have a cT1 <800ms and therefore do not have a second LiverMultiScan. A second scenario used the same retesting assumptions but removed the QALY loss for a false negative result.

Results from scenario analyses (Table 2) show that even if patients with cT1 scores <800ms do not have a second LiverMultiScan at 6 months, testing using LiverMultiScan never leads to an ICER versus no LiverMultiScan that is below £225,000 per QALY gained. This occurs using a set of assumptions that is favourable to the cost effectiveness of LiverMultiScan (i.e., patients with a cT1 score <800ms never have a second LiverMultiScan or liver biopsy and if their results are false negative do not incur a QALY loss for more than 6 months). In a scenario, where patients with a cT1 <800ms do not have a second LiverMultiScan and any QALY loss from having a false negative result is removed (a scenario the ERG considers is implausibly favourable to the cost effectiveness of LiverMultiScan), the ICER per QALY gained for the comparison of testing with LiverMultiScan versus no LiverMultiScan never falls below £48,000 per QALY. The EAG, therefore, considers that the base case assumption that all patients have

a second LiverMultiScan at 6 months regardless of cT1 score does not affect the conclusions that can be drawn from the EAG base case cost effectiveness results. Further, the EAG reiterates that the EAG base case assumption that all false negatives are picked up at 6 months means that, from the perspective of LiverMultiScan, the EAG base case ICERs per QALY gained are likely to be optimistic.

Table 2 EAG scenario analyses: patients with cT1<800ms not sent for second LiverMultiScan at 6 months

Diagnostic test strategy		cT1 cut off score	ICER per QALY gained		
			LiverMultiScan Deterministic results	Scenario 1: patients with cT1<800ms not sent for second LMS	Scenario 2: patients with cT1 <800ms not sent for second LMS AND no QALY loss for false negative results
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	800ms	Dominated by no LMS	Dominated by no LMS	£587,405
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	875ms	Dominated by no LMS	Dominated by no LMS	£73,054
T3	Advanced fibrosis (≥F3)	875ms	Dominated by no LMS	£748,291	£54,248
T4	Brunt Grade ≥1	800ms	Dominated by no LMS	Dominated by no LMS	Dominated by no LMS
T5	Brunt Grade ≥2	875ms	£1,266,511	£225,729	£48,738
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	Dominated by no LMS	Dominated by no LMS	£60,194
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4, ≥F2)	875ms	Dominated by no LMS	£754,729	£54,271
T8	High risk (NASH or >F1)	875ms	Dominated by no LMS	Dominated by no LMS	£116,081

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; EAG=External Assessment Group; F=stage of fibrosis; ICER=incremental cost effectiveness ratio; LMS=LiverMultiScan; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year

1.2 Threshold analysis for prevalence using test accuracy values

The EAG provided a threshold analysis showing the prevalence at which a test accuracy of 100% would result in LiverMultiScan being cost effective. The NICE lead team asked for these threshold analyses to be performed using the actual test accuracy results for each testing strategy. Results from these analyses are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 EAG threshold analysis of prevalence: cost effectiveness of strategies with different QALY WTP thresholds assuming base case LiverMultiScan test accuracy

Diagnostic test strategy		cT1 cut-off score	Base case prevalence (Eddowes/Perspectum Ltd data)	WTP threshold: £20,000/QALY		WTP threshold: £30,000/QALY	
				Prevalence	Number of biopsies averted	Prevalence	Number of biopsies averted
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	800ms	87%	8%	582	16%	531
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	875ms	65%	13%	617	18%	581
T3	Advanced fibrosis (≥F3)	875ms	48%	2%	579	8%	543
T4	Brunt Grade ≥1	800ms	98%	Never	NA	Never	NA
T5	Brunt Grade ≥2	875ms	50%	9%	599	15%	559
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	54%	6%	592	12%	554
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4, ≥F2)	875ms	48%	2%	578	8%	543
T8	High risk (NASH or >F1)	875ms	83%	21%	657	24%	625

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; EAG= External Assessment Group; F=stage of fibrosis; NA=not applicable; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life years; WTP=willingness to pay

These threshold analyses showed that for two of the strategies, even if prevalence was zero, LiverMultiScan would not be cost effective. This is due to the low specificity of LiverMultiScan for these strategies as low specificity results in a high false positive rate. Even if LiverMultiScan is 100% sensitive and prevalence is 0% for a strategy, LiverMultiScan will not be cost effective unless the specificity is above 60%.

1.3 QALY loss associated with a delayed diagnosis

The EAG has assumed a disutility associated with a false negative LMS or MRE of 0.03 per annum. This is based on the difference in utility values for treated and untreated NASH in NG49. However, the actual value of a QALY loss associated with a false negative test result is uncertain. The possible sources of QALY loss associated with a false negative test result include:

- symptomatic liver disease that develops after the false negative test result that would not have arisen following a true positive test result that led to treatment. This would include both liver disease that was present at the time of the false negative test result but was asymptomatic at that time, and symptomatic liver disease that developed after the false negative test result that may have been prevented with treatment
- any loss in life years from a delay in diagnosis of advanced liver disease or progression of liver disease that could have been prevented with a correct diagnosis (which includes any survival benefit from the additional information that would have been generated through a biopsy after a true positive test result)

On balance, as the QALY loss associated with a false negative only reflected treated versus untreated NASH, and not failure to diagnose and treat more advanced liver disease, the EAG considers that the utility value used in the model is likely to underestimate the QALY loss from a false negative test result.

The NICE lead team considers that the QALY loss resulting from a false negative LiverMultiScan result (0.03 per year) used in the EAG model could be too high for a condition that may be asymptomatic. The lead team requested a scenario analysis, for all diagnostic test strategies, in which the QALY loss from a false negative LiverMultiScan result was removed. The lead team also asked for a prevalence threshold analysis (as in Table 3) to be performed excluding the QALY loss from a false negative LiverMultiScan result. Results from these requested analyses are shown in Table 4. The EAG considers that excluding the QALY loss associated with a false negative LiverMultiScan test result, whilst providing information on the importance of this QALY loss is to overall cost effectiveness results, cannot ever be a plausible scenario. If having a false negative LiverMultiScan test result does not lead to a QALY loss, then there is no difference, in terms of QALYs, between a correct and an incorrect diagnosis. If this is the case, then there is no reason to perform a biopsy, or any of the other tests in the diagnostic pathway. The EAG considers that if patients are asymptomatic during

the 6 months prior to having the second LiverMultiScan test, the QALY loss should be interpreted as a loss in QALYs because of a delayed diagnosis. A delayed diagnosis means that the disease is more advanced at the time of diagnosis which could mean reduced treatment options, more severe symptoms and potentially reduced life expectancy. The EAG accepts the actual magnitude of the QALY loss associated with a delay in diagnosis of 6 months is unknown but considers that the assumption of no QALY loss would render the whole diagnostic pathway meaningless.

Table 4 No QALY loss from false negatives: base case ICERs per QALY gained and threshold analysis of prevalence for cost effectiveness of strategies with different QALY WTP thresholds assuming base case LMS test accuracy

Diagnostic test strategy		cT1 cut-off score	Base case prevalence (Eddowes/Perspectum Ltd)	ICER/ QALY	WTP threshold: £20,000/QALY		WTP threshold: £30,000/QALY	
				No QALY loss due to false negative LMS results	Prevalence	Number of biopsies averted	Prevalence	Number of biopsies averted
T1	Any fibrosis ($\geq F1$)	800ms	87%	£587,405	9%	576	18%	519
T2	Significant fibrosis ($\geq F2$)	875ms	65%	£176,491	15%	602	22%	553
T3	Advanced fibrosis ($\geq F3$)	875ms	48%	£118,501	3%	573	10%	532
T4	Brunt Grade ≥ 1	800ms	98%	Dominated by no LMS	Never	NA	Never	NA
T5	Brunt Grade ≥ 2	875ms	50%	£103,861	11%	585	18%	539
T6	NASH (NAS ≥ 4 , ≥ 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	54%	£135,392	7%	586	15%	536
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS ≥ 4 , $\geq F2$)	875ms	48%	£118,563	3%	572	10%	531
T8	High risk (NASH or $>F1$)	875ms	83%	£384,204	24%	625	31%	573

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; F=stage of fibrosis; ICER=incremental cost effectiveness ratio; LMS=LiverMultiScan; NA=not applicable; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year; WTP=willingness to pay

1.4 MRE analysis

In the EAG report, an analysis for MRE was not undertaken as diagnostic test accuracy evidence for the specific population described in the final scope issued by NICE was not available. The NICE lead team asked for an analysis exploring the cost effectiveness of MRE using the diagnostic test accuracy data available for other populations.

To undertake this analysis, the EAG has used the MRE 2x2 data provided by Perspectum Ltd (14th December 2021) from the trial reported in the Imajo 2021 publication. In this trial LiverMultiScan cT1 scores and MRE were used to diagnose NASH in Japanese patients with a diagnosis or suspicion of NAFLD who were also suspected to have NASH (the ERG reiterates that this is not the population described in the final scope issued by NICE). The strategies in the EAG model where MRE 2x2 data were provided by Perspectum Ltd are shown in Table 5. All EAG MRE analyses are presented in Table 6 to Table 12.

Table 5 Sensitivity and specificity of MRE

Diagnostic test strategy		Magnetic resonance imaging			LiverMultiScan				
		Cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity	cT1 cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity	Sensitivity	Specificity
			Perspectum Ltd/Imajo			Perspectum Ltd/Imajo		Perspectum/Eddowes	
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	2.9kPa	0.79	1.0	800ms	0.76	0.60	0.87	0.67
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	3.3kPa	0.82	0.83	875ms	0.51	0.65	0.63	0.75
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	0.71	0.41	875ms	0.65	0.76	0.64	0.67
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4, ≥F2)	3.5kPa	0.69	0.50	875ms	0.65	0.68	0.64	0.62

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; F=stage of fibrosis; ICER=incremental cost effectiveness ratio; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year; WTP=willingness to pay

The ERG notes that results from a naïve between trials analysis suggest that when comparing effectiveness in the population considered by Imajo 2021 compared with the population considered by Eddowes 2018, LiverMultiScan was less accurate at diagnosing fibrosis up to and including F2 but more accurate when diagnosing NASH and advanced NASH. Whether these differences between populations exist for MRE is unclear.

Within the Imajo 2021 population, LiverMultiScan was less accurate at diagnosing fibrosis up to F2 than MRE but more accurate at diagnosing NASH than MRE, with LiverMultiScan having a slightly lower sensitivity but a markedly higher specificity than MRE for the diagnosis of advanced NASH. This suggests that for the NASH and advanced NASH testing strategies, LiverMultiScan will result in a greater reduction in unnecessary biopsies than MRE and the reverse is true for fibrosis (up to and including F2) testing strategies.

For the costs of MRE, Resoundant Inc provided information to the EAG that the approximate cost of adding MRE to an existing MRI machine would be in the region of £35,000, although new machines may add MRE for no additional cost and some centres in the UK already have MRE. The EAG has therefore estimated two costs for MRE – one assuming the MRI device already has MRE capabilities (i.e., the cost of MRE is the same as the cost of MRI alone) and the second assuming that MRE would have to be installed onto the MRI device. To estimate the cost per MRE scan if MRE has to be installed, the EAG divided the £35,000 installation cost by the estimated number of MRE scans that would be undertaken in the NICE scope population over the lifetime of the MRI machine in which MRE was installed. Currently, MRE is only used for the diagnosis of liver disease and so the use of the machine for other diseases does not need to be considered.

To estimate the number of MRE scans in the target population that would be performed over the lifetime of an MRI machine, the EAG required estimates of the:

- number of patients with NAFLD and indeterminate results from fibrosis testing in England each year
- number of MRI machines where MRE would be installed
- average lifespan of existing MRI machines in the UK.

An estimate of the number of people with NAFLD and indeterminate results from fibrosis testing in England each year is difficult to establish. The number of liver biopsies performed each year in England has been estimated to be 7,000 to 8,000 liver biopsies per year, with the majority being undertaken for the investigation of liver disease (West 2010). Not all these biopsies are for people with NAFLD with indeterminate results and include biopsies for liver cancer, hepatitis and alcoholic liver disease. The EAG has assumed that half the biopsies

were carried out in patients with NAFLD, and that half of these patients had indeterminate results from fibrosis testing. Taking the upper bound of 8,000 biopsies per year, this means that 2,000 per year could be due to patients with NAFLD and indeterminate results from fibrosis testing.

The number of MRI machines in the UK was estimated in 2017 to be 6.1 per million population (Clinical Imaging Board 2017). Applying this to the population in England of 56.5 million (Census 2021) suggests there were approximately 345 MRI machines in England in 2017. Not all MRI machines in the UK would need to be modified for MRE to meet the demand for MRE. The EAG has assumed that with only 2,000 patients per year requiring an MRE due to indeterminate results from fibrosis testing, this demand could be met if 10% of the MRI machines available were modified to perform MRE.

Results from a Royal College of Radiographers (RCR) survey (Clinical Imaging Board 2017) showed that the median age of MRI scanners in England was 7 years. The RCR quotes the European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry (COCIR) that no more than 10% of MRI machines available in a healthcare system should be aged over 10 years old. Taking these factors into account, the average remaining lifespan of MRI machines in England was estimated by the EAG as 5 years. However, if only 10% of machines were modified to perform MRE then it is reasonable to assume that only the newest machines would be modified. Thus, the EAG has assumed that the effective lifespan for an MRE modified MRI is 10 years.

These estimates can be used to generate the following results:

- the total cost of adapting 34 MRI machines so that they include MRE is £1,190,000
- the total number of patients with NAFLD and indeterminate results from testing who, over 10 years, have an MRE is 20,000
- the additional cost of MRE is £59.50, making a total cost of MRE of £207.74 (the cost of a standard MRI of £148.24 + the additional cost of MRE of £59.50)

As has been detailed, this cost is built on several assumptions, some of which are not evidenced. Therefore, as was the case for the EAG analysis of LiverMultiScan, the EAG has carried out threshold analyses to determine the price of MRE at which MRE would be cost effective at WTP thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY gained.

The proportion of failed MRE tests was assumed to be identical to the proportion of failed LiverMultiScan tests. The EAG has also used the assumption that was used to generate LiverMultiScan base case results, i.e., all patients with a negative result from a MRE are recalled at 6 months for a second MRE, at which point a correct diagnosis is made.

Table 6 Initial MRE outcomes generated by the EAG model (per 1,000 tests)

Diagnostic test strategy		Cut-off score	True positive	True negative	False positive	False negative	Failed tests
T1	Any fibrosis ($\geq F1$)	2.9kPa	649.5	122.9	0.0	172.7	55.0
T2	Significant fibrosis ($\geq F2$)	3.3kPa	505.2	273.0	55.9	110.9	55.0
T6	NASH (NAS ≥ 4 , ≥ 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.0kPa	365.0	176.7	254.2	149.1	55.0
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS ≥ 4 plus $\geq F2$)	3.5kPa	311.7	246.6	246.6	140.0	55.0

EAG=External Assessment Group; F=stage of fibrosis; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis

Table 7 MRE plus biopsy pathway: biopsies performed and averted (per 1,000 patients)

Diagnostic test strategy		Cut-off score	Total number of biopsies, including those following a repeated MRE at 6 months	Biopsies averted	Unnecessary biopsies
T1	Any fibrosis ($\geq F1$)	2.9kPa	877.2	122.9	7.2
T2	Significant fibrosis ($\geq F2$)	3.3kPa	727.0	273.0	75.0
T6	NASH (NAS ≥ 4 , ≥ 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	823.3	176.7	279.3
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS ≥ 4 plus $\geq F2$)	3.5kPa	753.4	246.6	275.4

F=stage of fibrosis; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis

Table 8 Pathway diagnostic test strategy costs (per 1,000 patients) – MRE cost of £59.50 on top of MRI cost

Diagnostic test strategy		MRE cut-off score	MRE plus biopsy pathway costs				Biopsy only pathway costs			Additional cost for the MRE pathway
			Biopsy procedures	Biopsy complications	MRE	Total costs	Biopsy procedures	Biopsy complications	Total costs	
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	2.9kPa	£706,106	£7,491	£269,127	£982,724	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£169,184
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	3.3kPa	£585,272	£6,209	£287,483	£878,964	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£65,424
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	£662,775	£7,031	£275,413	£945,219	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£131,679
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	3.5kPa	£606,451	£6,434	£288,068	£900,952	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£87,412

F=stage of fibrosis; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis

Table 9 Pathway diagnostic test strategy costs (per 1,000 patients) – no MRE cost in addition to MRI cost

Diagnostic test strategy		MRE cut-off score	MRE plus biopsy pathway costs				Biopsy only pathway costs			Additional cost for the MRE pathway
			Biopsy procedures	Biopsy complications	MRE	Total costs	Biopsy procedures	Biopsy complications	Total costs	
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	2.9kPa	£706,106	£7,491	£192,045	£905,642	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£92,102
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	3.3kPa	£585,272	£6,209	£205,143	£796,624	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	-£16,916
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	£662,775	£7,031	£196,531	£866,337	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£52,797
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	3.5kPa	£606,451	£6,434	£205,561	£818,445	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£4,905

F=stage of fibrosis; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis

Table 10 QALY analyses for the two diagnostic pathways (per 1,000 patients)

Diagnostic test strategy		MRE cut-off score	MRE plus biopsy pathway					Biopsy only pathway				Incremental QALYs (MRE+biopsy pathway)*
			Biopsy procedure	Biopsy complications	Biopsy death	False negatives	Total QALY losses	Biopsy procedure	Biopsy complications	Biopsy death	Total QALY losses	
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	2.9kPa	4.89	0.13	1.24	2.59	8.85	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-1.71
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	3.3kPa	4.06	0.11	1.03	1.66	6.85	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	0.28
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	4.59	0.12	1.16	2.24	8.11	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-0.98
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	3.5kPa	4.20	0.11	1.06	2.10	7.48	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-0.34

* A negative value means that the biopsy only pathway generates more QALYs than the MRE+biopsy pathway; a positive value means that the MRE plus biopsy pathway generates more QALYs than the biopsy only pathway

F=stage of fibrosis; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year

Table 11 Incremental analyses for MRE plus biopsy versus biopsy (1,000 patients) – MRE cost of £59.50 on top of MRI cost

Diagnostic test strategy		MRE cut-off score	QALY loss from false negatives			No QALY loss from false negatives		
			Incremental		ICER per QALY gained (versus biopsy)	Incremental		ICER per QALY gained (versus biopsy)
			Costs	QALYs		Costs	QALYs	
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	2.9kPa	£169,184	-1.71	MRE+biopsy dominated by biopsy	£169,184	0.88	£192,961
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	3.3kPa	£65,424	0.28	£229,967	£65,424	1.95	£33,584
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	£131,679	-0.98	MRE+biopsy dominated by biopsy	£131,679	1.26	£104,429
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	3.5kPa	£87,412	-0.34	MRE+biopsy dominated by biopsy	£87,412	1.76	£49,657

F=stage of fibrosis; ICER=incremental cost effectiveness ratio; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year

Table 12 Incremental analyses for MRE plus biopsy versus biopsy (1,000 patients) – no MRE cost on top of MRI cost

Diagnostic test strategy		MRE cut-off score	QALY loss from false negatives			No QALY loss from false negatives		
			Incremental		ICER per QALY gained (versus biopsy)	Incremental		ICER per QALY gained (versus biopsy)
			Costs	QALYs		Costs	QALYs	
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	2.9kPa	£92,102	-1.71	MRE+biopsy dominated by biopsy	£92,102	0.88	£105,045
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	3.3kPa	-£16,916	0.28	MRE+biopsy dominates biopsy	-£16,916	1.95	MRE+biopsy dominates biopsy
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	£52,797	-0.98	MRE+biopsy dominated by biopsy	£52,797	1.26	£41,871
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	3.5kPa	£4,905	-0.34	MRE+biopsy dominated by biopsy	£4,905	1.76	£2,787

F=stage of fibrosis; ICER=incremental cost effectiveness ratio; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year

In addition to base case analyses, the EAG undertook threshold analysis to determine at what prevalence and total cost the different MRE testing strategies would become cost effective at £20,000 and £30,000 (Table 13). Results without any additional cost of MRE over a standard MRI are provided in

Table 14.

The EAG reiterates that results from all MRE analyses should be interpreted with caution. The MRE effectiveness evidence has not been sourced from the target population and the overall analyses are still, in the opinion of the EAG, likely to generate optimistic QALY gains for MRI (LiverMultiScan or MRE) over no MRI. Interpreting the results with these caveats, MRE is unlikely to be cost effective at a WTP of £20,000 or £30,000 per QALY if there is a QALY loss associated with false negative test results or if there is an additional cost of MRE above that of the cost of MRI. If there is no or minimal QALY loss associated with false negatives and MRE adds no additional costs to MRI then, potentially, testing for advanced NASH or significant fibrosis with MRE whilst only undertaking a biopsy in patients who have positive test results, may be cost effective.

Table 13 MRE plus biopsy versus biopsy (1,000 patients) – prevalence and total MRE cost at which MRE becomes cost effective at different QALY WTP thresholds

Diagnostic test strategy		MRE cut-off score	Base case prevalence from CALM trial	£20,000/QALY			£30,000/QALY		
				Prevalence (QALY loss from false negative)	Prevalence (no QALY loss from false negative)	Price of MRE at which it becomes cost effective	Prevalence (QALY loss from false negative)	Prevalence (no QALY loss from false negative)	Price of MRE at which it becomes cost effective
T1	Any fibrosis ($\geq F1$)	2.9kPa	87%	62%	67%	£50.70*	63%	69%	£37.48*
T2	Significant fibrosis ($\geq F2$)	3.3kPa	65%	56%	61%	£164.58	58%	64%	£166.63
T6	NASH (NAS ≥ 4 , ≥ 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	54%	19%	24%	£93.70*	22%	29%	£86.35*
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS ≥ 4 plus $\geq F2$)	3.5kPa	48%	29%	35%	£139.80*	31%	40%	£137.34*

*The ICERs in these scenarios are in the south-west quadrant and as such lower costs for MRE are required to make the QALY loss associated with each strategy compared to no MRE cost effective as the WTP threshold increases from £20,000 to £30,000 per QALY

F=stage of fibrosis; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year; WTP=willingness to pay

Table 14 MRE plus biopsy versus biopsy (1,000 patients) – prevalence at which MRE becomes cost effective at different QALY WTP thresholds with no additional cost per MRE over a standard MRI

Diagnostic test strategy		MRE cut-off score	Base case prevalence from CALM trial	£20,000/QALY		£30,000/QALY	
				Prevalence (QALY loss from false negative)	Prevalence (no QALY loss from false negative)	Prevalence (QALY loss from false negative)	Prevalence (no QALY loss from false negative)
T1	Any fibrosis (≥F1)	2.9kPa	87%	72%	78%	72%	79%
T2	Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	3.3kPa	65%	MRE+biopsy dominates biopsy			
T6	NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	3.3kPa	54%	19%	47%	22%	50%
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	3.5kPa	48%	46%	55%	45%	58%

F=stage of fibrosis; MRE=magnetic resonance elastography; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year; WTP=willingness to pay

2 UPDATED ORIGINAL EAG REPORT TABLES

These tables have been generated using the new T8 values (and the correct T3 values).

Table 15 LiverMultiScan diagnostic test accuracy strategies and values (per 1,000 successful tests)*

Diagnostic test strategy		cT1 cut-off value	Population prevalence	True positive	True negative	False positive	False negative	Sensitivity	Specificity
T1	Any fibrosis ($\geq F1$)	800ms	87.0%	761	87	43	109	0.88	0.67
T2	Significant fibrosis ($\geq F2$)	875ms	65.2%	413	261	87	239	0.63	0.75
T3	Advanced fibrosis ($\geq F3$)	875ms	47.8%	304	326	196	174	0.64	0.63
T4	Brunt Grade ≥ 1	800ms	97.8%	782	0	22	196	0.8	0
T5	Brunt Grade ≥ 2	875ms	50.0%	348	348	152	152	0.7	0.7
T6	NASH (NAS ≥ 4 , ≥ 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	54.4%	348	304	152	196	0.64	0.67
T7	Advanced NASH (NAS ≥ 4 plus $\geq F2$)	875ms	47.8%	304	326	196	174	0.64	0.62
T8	High risk (NASH or $>F1$)	875ms	82.6%	478	152	22	348	0.58	0.88

* This table includes corrected T3 values and updated T8 values

cT1= iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; DTA=diagnostic test accuracy; F=fibrosis stage; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis
 Source: Eddowes 2018 study/Perspectum Ltd^{29,71}

Table 16 EAG base case model assumptions*

Parameter	Assumption	Source/justification
Percentage of patients with a positive LiverMultiScan who go to biopsy	100%	Clinical advice
Percentage of patients with FN results who are retested and correctly diagnosed at 6 months	100%	Conservative assumption that would favour LiverMultiScan (i.e., produce optimistic ICERs per QALY gained for the use of LiverMultiScan)
Time horizon	6 months	Sufficient to capture key differences in costs and benefits between LiverMultiScan plus biopsy and a biopsy only pathways
Discount rate	NA	As model time horizon was under 12 months, no discounting was included in the model
Population prevalence		
T1: Any fibrosis (\geq F1)	87.0%	Eddowes 2018/Perspectum Ltd ^{29,71}
T2: Significant fibrosis (\geq F2)	65.2%	
T3: Advanced fibrosis (\geq F3)	47.8%	
T4: Brunt Grade \geq 1	97.8%	
T5: Brunt Grade \geq 2	50.0%	
T6: NASH (NAS \geq 4, \geq 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	54.4%	
T7: Advanced NASH (NAS \geq 4 plus \geq F2)	47.8%	
T8: High risk (NASH or $>$ F1)	82.6%	
LiverMultiScan Test Accuracy		
Sensitivity		
T1: Any fibrosis (\geq F1)	0.88	Eddowes 2018/Perspectum Ltd ^{29,71}
T2: Significant fibrosis (\geq F2)	0.63	
T3: Advanced fibrosis (\geq F3)	0.64	
T4: Brunt Grade \geq 1	0.8	
T5: Brunt Grade \geq 2	0.7	
T6: NASH (NAS \geq 4, \geq 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte	0.64	

ballooning)		
T7: Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	0.64	
T8: High risk (NASH or >F1)	0.58	
Specificity		
T1: Any fibrosis (≥F1)	0.67	Eddowes 2018/Perspectum Ltd ^{29,71}
T2: Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	0.75	
T3: Advanced fibrosis (≥F3)	0.63	
T4: Brunt Grade ≥1	0	
T5: Brunt Grade ≥2	0.7	
T6: NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	0.67	
T7: Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	0.62	
T8: High risk (NASH or >F1)	0.88	
Costs		
Biopsy	£805	Weighted average of YG10Z Percutaneous transvascular biopsy of lesion of liver and YG11A Percutaneous punch biopsy of lesion of liver, 19 years and over from NHS Reference Costs ⁷⁹
MRI	£148.24	RD01A Scan of one area, without contrast, 19 years and over from NHS Reference Costs ⁷⁹
LiverMultiScan	£199	Cost per scan for data analysis and reporting provided by Perspectum Ltd ⁷¹
Utilities		
QALY losses associated with having a liver biopsy		
Direct pain and anxiety	0.00453	Assumption based upon clinical advice
Serious adverse events	0.000147	Sourced from literature
Death	0.00141	Assumption based upon risk of death from biopsy
Other QALY losses		
QALY loss from failure to treat advanced liver disease	0.03 pa	QALY loss from untreated NASH from NG49 ⁹

* This table includes corrected T3 values and updated T8 values

F=stage of fibrosis; FN=false negative; ICER=incremental cost effectiveness ratio; MRI=magnetic resonance imaging; NA=not applicable; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; NG=NICE guideline; QALY=quality adjusted life year

Table 17 Initial LiverMultiScan outcomes generated by the EAG model (per 1,000 tests)*

Diagnostic test strategy	cT1 cut-off value	True Positive	True Negative	False Positive	False Negative	Failed tests
T1: Any fibrosis (\geq F1)	800ms	719.1	82.2	40.6	103.0	55.0
T2: Significant fibrosis (\geq F2)	875ms	390.3	246.6	82.2	225.9	55.0
T3: Advanced fibrosis (\geq F3)	875ms	287.6	308.2	184.9	164.3	55.0
T4: Brunt Grade \geq 1	800ms	739.9	0.0	20.8	185.2	55.0
T5: Brunt Grade \geq 2	875ms	328.9	328.9	143.6	143.6	55.0
T6: NASH (NAS \geq 4, \geq 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	328.9	287.3	143.6	185.2	55.0
T7: Advanced NASH (NAS \geq 4 plus \geq F2)	875ms	287.3	308.1	185.2	164.4	55.0
T8: High Risk (NASH or $>$ F1)	875ms	452.0	143.8	20.5	328.7	55.0

* This table includes corrected T3 values and updated T8 values

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; EAG=External Assessment Group; F=stage of fibrosis; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis

Table 18 LiverMultiScan plus biopsy pathway: biopsies performed and averted (per 1,000 patients)*

Diagnostic test strategy	cT1 cut-off value	Total number of biopsies, including those following a repeated LiverMultiScan at 6 months	Biopsies averted
T1: Any fibrosis (\geq F1)	800ms	917.8	82.2
T2: Significant fibrosis (\geq F2)	875ms	753.4	246.6
T3: Advanced fibrosis (\geq F3)	875ms	691.8	308.2
T4: Brunt Grade \geq 1	800ms	1000	0.0
T5: Brunt Grade \geq 2	875ms	671.1	328.9
T6: NASH (NAS \geq 4, \geq 1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	712.7	287.3
T7: Advanced NASH (NAS \geq 4 plus \geq F2)	875ms	691.9	308.1
T8: High Risk (NASH or $>$ F1)	875ms	898.9	143.8

* This table includes corrected T3 values and updated T8 values

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; F=stage of fibrosis; MRI=magnetic resonance imaging; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis

Table 19 Pathway diagnostic test strategy costs (per 1,000 patients)*

Diagnostic test strategy	cT1 cut-off value	LiverMultiScan plus biopsy pathway costs				Biopsy only pathway costs			Additional cost for the LMS pathway
		Biopsy procedures	Biopsy complications	LiverMultiScan test	Total costs	Biopsy procedures	Biopsy complications	Total costs	
T1: Any fibrosis (≥F1)	800ms	£738,817	£7,838	£411,556	£1,158,211	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£344,671
T2: Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	875ms	£606,451	£6,434	£511,311	£1,124,195	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£310,655
T3: Advanced fibrosis (≥F3)	875ms	£556,938	£5,908	£511,311	£1,074,157	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£260,617
T4: Brunt Grade ≥1	800ms	£805,000	£8,540	£411,556	£1,225,096	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£411,556
T5: Brunt Grade ≥2	875ms	£540,268	£5,732	£511,311	£1,057,310	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£243,770
T6: NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	£573,740	£6,087	£511,311	£1,091,137	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£277,597
T7: Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	875ms	£557,004	£5,909	£511,311	£1,074,224	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£260,684
T8: High Risk (NASH or >F1)	875ms	£689,238	£7,312	£511,311	£1,207,860	£805,000	£8,540	£813,540	£394,320

* This table includes corrected T3 values and updated T8 values

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; F=stage of fibrosis; LMS=LiverMultiScan; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis

Table 20 QALY analyses for the two diagnostic pathways (per 1,000 patients)*

Diagnostic test strategy	cT1 cut-off value	LiverMultiScan plus biopsy pathway					Biopsy only pathway				Incremental QALYs (LMS+biopsy pathway)**
		Biopsy procedure	Biopsy complications	Biopsy death	False negatives	Total QALY losses	Biopsy procedure	Biopsy complications	Biopsy death	Total QALY losses	
T1: Any fibrosis (≥F1)	800ms	5.12	0.13	1.29	1.55	8.10	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-0.96
T2: Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	875ms	4.20	0.11	1.06	3.39	8.76	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-1.63
T3: Advanced fibrosis (≥F3)	875ms	3.86	0.10	0.98	2.47	7.40	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-0.27
T4: Brunt Grade ≥1	800ms	5.58	0.15	1.41	2.78	9.92	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-2.78
T5: Brunt Grade ≥2	875ms	3.74	0.10	0.95	2.15	6.94	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	0.19
T6: NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	3.98	0.10	1.00	2.78	7.86	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-0.73
T7: Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	875ms	3.86	0.10	0.98	2.47	7.40	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-0.27
T8: High risk (NASH or >F1)	875ms	4.78	0.13	1.21	4.93	11.04	5.58	0.15	1.41	7.14	-3.90

* This table includes corrected T3 values and updated T8 values

** A negative value means that the biopsy only pathway generates more QALYs than LMS+biopsy pathway; a positive value means that the LiverMultiScan plus biopsy pathway generates more QALYs than biopsy only pathway

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; F=stage of fibrosis; LMS=LiverMultiScan; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year

Table 21 Incremental analyses for LiverMultiScan plus biopsy versus biopsy (1,000 patients)*

Diagnostic test strategy	cT1 cut-off value	Incremental		ICER per QALY gained (versus biopsy)
		Costs	QALYs	
T1: Any fibrosis (≥F1)	800ms	£344,671	-0.96	LMS+biopsy dominated by biopsy
T2: Significant fibrosis (≥F2)	875ms	£310,655	-1.63	LMS+biopsy dominated by biopsy
T3: Advanced fibrosis (≥F3)	875ms	£260,617	-0.27	LMS+biopsy dominated by biopsy
T4: Brunt Grade ≥1	800ms	£411,556	-2.78	LMS+biopsy dominated by biopsy
T5: Brunt Grade ≥2	875ms	£243,770	0.19	£1,266,511
T6: NASH (NAS≥4, ≥1 for lobular inflammation and hepatocyte ballooning)	875ms	£277,597	-0.73	LMS+biopsy dominated by biopsy
T7: Advanced NASH (NAS≥4 plus ≥F2)	875ms	£260,684	-0.27	LMS+biopsy dominated by biopsy
T8: High risk (NASH or >F1)	875ms	£394,320	-3.90	LMS+biopsy dominated by biopsy

* This table includes corrected T3 values and updated T8 values

cT1=iron corrected longitudinal relaxation time; F=stage of fibrosis; NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; QALY=quality adjusted life year

Table 22 QALY loss associated with biopsy: results from threshold analyses*

Diagnostic test strategy	Threshold: £20,000 per QALY			Threshold: £30,000 per QALY		
	Original QALY loss	Threshold QALY loss	Increase from original	Original QALY loss	Threshold QALY loss	Increase from original
T5: Brunt Grade ≥2	0.007	0.044	514%	0.007	0.031	340%

* This table includes updated T8 values

NAS=non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) activity score; NASH=non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; ICER=incremental cost effectiveness ratio; QALY=quality adjusted life year

3 REFERENCES

Census 2021. Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2020. Statistical bulletin. Published June 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2020>

Clinical Imaging Board. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment, operations and planning in the NHS. Published April 2017

https://www.rcr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/cib_mri_equipment_report.pdf

Eddowes PJ, McDonald N, Davies N, Semple SIK, Kendall TJ, Hodson J, *et al.* Utility and cost evaluation of multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging for the assessment of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 2018; 47:631-44.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29271504/>

Imajo K, Tetlow L, Dennis A, Shumbayawonda E, Mouchti S, Kendall TJ, *et al.* Quantitative multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging can aid non-alcoholic steatohepatitis diagnosis in a Japanese cohort. *World Journal Gastroenterology.* 2021; 27:609-23.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33642832/>

West J, Card TR. Reduced mortality rates following elective percutaneous liver biopsies. *Gastroenterology.* 2010; 139:1230-7.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20547160/>