

SonoVue (sulphur hexafluoride microbubbles) - contrast agent for contrast-enhanced ultrasound imaging of the liver

Information for the public
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NICE has assessed SonoVue to help the NHS decide whether to use this product.

SonoVue is a substance that is injected into the bloodstream to help make ultrasound pictures clearer. NICE looked at SonoVue when it is used with ultrasound to look at the liver. It can give doctors more information about abnormal-looking areas in the liver than normal ultrasound, which can help with the diagnosis.

NICE has said that SonoVue is recommended for use with ultrasound for examining abnormal-looking areas in the liver that are seen, but cannot be properly identified, using normal ultrasound. These areas may have been unexpectedly found in a liver scan. If they were seen when looking for cancer that has spread from another part of the body, SonoVue is recommended if the person cannot have or strongly does not want a CT (computed tomography) scan. If they were seen in someone with cirrhosis who is having their liver checked, SonoVue is recommended if the person cannot have or strongly does not want an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan.