

# National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

## 345 – Radiofrequency assisted liver resection

### Comments table

IPAC date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006<sup>1</sup>

Consultee name and organisation	Section no.	Comment no.	Comments	Response
Individual respondent – clinician	<b>2.2 Procedure</b>	1	The procedure is never carried out under CT guidance (the opening paragraph says so - that is wrong). It is carried out in the operating room, and ultrasound is often used to determine the location of the tumour, and the exact plane along which the liver will be divided.	Please respond to all comments  The Committee Chair agreed to amend the second section of section 2.2.1 to read: 'The procedure is usually undertaken under general anaesthesia and using ultrasound guidance.'
Individual respondent – clinician	<b>2.2 Procedure</b>	2	There are indeed several different techniques / devices that come under this umbrella, and the advice needs to be explicit about what is covered and what is not. Geller et al use Tissuelink's device, which is like a diathermy knife. It is shaped like a biro, and the tip heats up and coagulates the tissues with RF energy, so you cut through the liver without causing too much bleeding. This could be considered a standard technique now, or at best a modification of a standard technique. On the other hand, the Habib device is an array of pins that you stick into the liver and keep a button switched on for a while as it cooks the liver with RF energy, and then you use an ordinary surgical knife to cut through the liver. This is a new device. I think the 3 referees are not necessarily all talking about the same thing.	The Committee Chair agreed to add the following sentence to the end of section 2.2.1: 'A number of devices are available to perform this procedure.'  The procedure (and the related device) used in each study that the committee saw are described in the table 2 of the overview.
Individual respondent – clinician	<b>General/overview</b>	3	Consultee's title in the overview is incorrect.	Corrected, thank you.

<sup>1</sup> Owing to late receipt of the consultation comments, the responses to the consultee comments were agreed by Chair's Action