

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

388 – Soft palate implants for simple snoring

Consultation Comments table

IPAC date: September 13, 2007

Com. no.	Consultee name and organisation	Sec. no.	Comments	Response
				Please respond to all comments
1	Individual clinician	1	Children are not mentioned	No literature was identified which related to the use of this procedure in children. Section 2.5.1 now reads 'The Committee did not see any evidence on the use of this procedure for children.'
2	Individual clinician	2.1	Children are not mentioned. I am not aware that the procedure is done in children. There is no evidence involving children included. Should NICE recommend it is not done in children unless part of a trial?	Section 2.5.1 now reads 'The Committee did not see any evidence on the use of this procedure for children.'
3	Spinal Injury Association	2.1	No indication of patient group only description of patients the procedure is suitable for.	Thank you for your comment. That is correct: as simple snoring is a very common condition that can occur in the absence of other symptoms, we did not attempt to describe underlying conditions which may lead to snoring.
4	Individual clinician	2.3	There could be a comment that the procedure is not done in children: see above	Section 2.5.1 now reads 'The Committee did not see any evidence on the use of this procedure for children.'
5	Spinal Injury Association	2.3	Do you think that any benefits that patients can experience as a result of the procedure are fully considered and accurately represented in the Consultation Document? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No But not easy to extract exactly what and how much	Thank you for your comment. The Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee regarded the evidence about the efficacy of this procedure as inadequate, making it more difficult – as you have said - to assess the benefits of the procedure.

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6	Individual clinician	2.3	Results very poor if patient has long uvula, excessive webbing or redundant tonsillar pillars	Thank you for your comment. The data available does not sufficiently discriminate efficacy rates for different subgroups
7	Individual clinician	2.4	I agree with the potential complications but could there be a comment that the procedure is not done in children?	Section 2.5.1 now reads 'The Committee did not see any evidence on the use of this procedure for children.'
8	Spinal Injury Association	2.4	Additional safety issue that patients consider important "Impact on care needs of any invasive procedure."	The impact on patients' bed partners was reported in several of the studies identified in the document. The Interventional Procedures Programme is only able to provide information on the direct effects of the procedure on the patient.
9	Individual clinician	2.4	Extrusion does occur and can extrude either in oral cavity or posteriorly in the nasopharynx. in latter case removal of implant can be difficult and may well require general anaesthesia	Noted, thank you.
10	Spinal Injury Association	General	Some of the language used could be improved to better meet plain English standards. Statistical information should be "translated" to make it easier and more understandable for public consultation.	This is useful feedback, thank you. A document called Understanding NICE Guidance will be published along with the Guidance document which aims to explain the guidance to the general public, patients and carers, although this is obviously after consultation is over.