

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

734 – Percutaneous endoscopic laser cervical discectomy

Consultation Comments table

IPAC date: Thursday 16th April 2009

Com. no.	Consultee name and organisation	Sec. no.	Comments	Response
				Please respond to all comments
1	Consultee 1 on behalf of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons	1	This intervention is not used routinely in neurosurgical practice. The guidance indicated above is in agreement with current state of knowledge.	Thank you for your comment.
2	Consultee 1 on behalf of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons	2.1	The great majority of neurosurgeons will perform a graft of some kind following the discectomy. Disc replacement will be offered only in selected cases. The role of stabilisation following laser discectomy is unclear.	Thank you for your comment. The list of current treatments and alternatives is not intended to be definitive.
3	Consultee 1 on behalf of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons	2.2	The laser is merely an alternative physical method of disc removal. No evidence that it adds to the safety or efficacy aspects.	Thank you for your comment. The use of laser was integral to the scope of this procedure.
4	Consultee 1 on behalf of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons	2.3	Agreed. Also, open discectomy is applicable for disc prolapse causing radiculopathy as well as myelopathy (or the combination). Laser discectomy is suitable for radiculopathy alone on current evidence. Many patients with radiculopathy have some degree of canal compromise. This means that the laser method is unlikely to replace the open method.	Thank you for your comment. Section 2.3.2 of the guidance is the opinion of the Specialist Advisers; however, this section will be changed to remove reference to comparator procedures.
5	Consultee 1 on behalf of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons	2.4	A 15% complication was reported in a small series of 41 patients (Haufe SM, Mork AR, Journal of clinical laser medicine and surgery, ISSN: 1044-5471 2004 Feb Vol 22(1) pp 57-8	Thank you for your comment. Data from this study will be added to the overview and guidance along with any relevant data from the post-consultation literature search.

"Comments received in the course of consultations carried out by NICE are published in the interests of openness and transparency, and to promote understanding of how recommendations are developed. The comments are published as a record of the submissions that NICE has received, and are not endorsed by NICE, its officers or advisory committees."