

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment

IPG530 Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) for depression

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE Equality scheme.

Scoping

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (development of the scope or discussion at the Committee meeting), and, if so, what are they?

Age: Depression affects 1 in 5 older people living in the community and 2 in 5 living in care homes.

Gender: Depression is more common in women than in men. Worldwide, 5.8% of men and 9.5% of women will experience a depressive episode in a 1- year period, a total of about 121 million people.

Disability: People with depression may be covered by the Equality Act 2010 if it has a substantial and long term (over 12 months) adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

Ethnicity: Depression in ethnic minority groups has been found to be up to 60% higher than in the white population in the UK.

Sexual orientation: Studies report that lesbian, gay and bisexual people show higher levels of anxiety, depression and suicidal feelings than heterosexual men and women.

Socioeconomic status: A number of socioeconomic factors significantly affected prevalence rates in the UK survey: those with a depressive episode were more likely than those without 'neurotic disorders' (depressive or anxiety disorders) to be unemployed, to belong to social classes 4 and below, to have lower predicted intellectual function, to have no formal educational qualifications and to live in local authority or Housing Association accommodation, to have moved 3 or more times in the last 2 years and to live in an urban environment.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? (If there are exclusions listed in the scope (for example, populations, treatments or settings), are these justified?)

This was not thought to have an impact on the assessment of the procedure. No exclusions were applied.

3. Has any change to the scope (such as additional issues raised during the Committee meeting) been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

No

Consultation

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

Age: Mean age of 37 years for patients with depression included in the overview in the studies where age data were reported.

Gender: 52% (1202/2299) of patients with depression included in the overview were female in the studies where gender data were reported.

Disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status of patients included in the overview were not reported in the studies.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the overview, specialist adviser questionnaires or patient commentary, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

No

3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the

Committee, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?
No

4. Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access a technology or intervention compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?
No

5. Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?
Not applicable

6. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 4 or 5, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to promote equality?
Not applicable

7. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the consultation document, and, if so, where?
No

Final interventional procedures document

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

No

2. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access a technology or intervention compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

Not applicable

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

Not applicable

4. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 2 and 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

Not applicable

5. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final interventional procedures document, and, if so, where?

No

Approved by Programme Director

Date: 1 July 2015