

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Interventional Procedures Programme

Specialist Adviser questionnaire

Before completing this questionnaire, please read [Conflicts of Interest for Specialist Advisers](#). Certain conflicts exclude you from offering advice, however, please return the questionnaire to us incomplete for our records.

Please respond in the boxes provided.

Please complete and return to: azad.hussain@nice.org.uk and IPSA@nice.org.uk

Procedure Name: Collagen paste for closing an anal fistula

Name of Specialist Advisor: Simon Gonsalves

Specialist Society: Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

1 Do you have adequate knowledge of this procedure to provide advice?

- Yes.
- No – please return the form/answer no more questions.

1.1 Does the title used above describe the procedure adequately?

- Yes.
- No. If no, please enter any other titles below.

Comments:

for closure of anal fistula

2 Your involvement in the procedure

2.1 Is this procedure relevant to your specialty?

- Yes.
- Is there any kind of inter-specialty controversy over the procedure?
- No. If no, then answer no more questions, but please give any information you can about who is likely to be doing the procedure.

Comments:

Procedure used by Colorectal Subspecialty Surgeons or other General Surgeons with a specialist interest in Coloproctology.

Some debate within the specialty as to its role and place in the definitive management of fistula in ano in comparison with other techniques

The next 2 questions are about whether you carry out the procedure, or refer patients for it. If you are in a specialty that normally carries out the procedure please answer question 2.2.1. If you are in a specialty that normally selects or refers patients for the procedure, please answer question 2.2.2.

2.2.1 If you are in a specialty that does this procedure, please indicate your experience with it:

- I have never done this procedure.
- I have done this procedure at least once.
- I do this procedure regularly.

Comments:

I have not performed the procedure as described above for fistulas. Though have used permacol paste for incontinence in over 50 patients. It does not feature in my regular colorectal practice, as the current evidence is sparse. I tend to favour other techniques which offer patients greater success such as fistula collagen plugs, Ligation of the intesphincteric tract, Mucosal advancement flaps and loose setons, and fistulotomy. It is not a procedure that I would be averse to trying.

2.2.2 If your specialty is involved in patient selection or referral to another specialty for this procedure, please indicate your experience with it.

- I have never taken part in the selection or referral of a patient for this procedure.
- I have taken part in patient selection or referred a patient for this procedure at least once.
- I take part in patient selection or refer patients for this procedure regularly.

Comments:

Routinely evaluate and select patients for fistula surgery.

2.3 Please indicate your research experience relating to this procedure (please choose one or more if relevant):

- I have done bibliographic research on this procedure.

- I have done research on this procedure in laboratory settings (e.g. device-related research).
- I have done clinical research on this procedure involving patients or healthy volunteers.
- I have had no involvement in research on this procedure.
- Other (please comment)

Comments:

I have not published on this specific area of colorectal practice but have published on the use of collagen fistula plugs previously.

3 Status of the procedure

3.1 Which of the following best describes the procedure (choose one):

- Established practice and no longer new.
- A minor variation on an existing procedure, which is unlikely to alter the procedure's safety and efficacy.
- Definitely novel and of uncertain safety and efficacy.
- The first in a new class of procedure.

Comments:

Novel, of uncertain efficacy and cost effectiveness. No obvious concerns with safety or morbidity from this procedure.

3.2 What would be the comparator (standard practice) to this procedure?

Ligation of intersphincteric fistula tract, collagen fistula plugs, seton (loose or tight (cutting)), Mucosal advancement flaps, endocutaneous advancement flaps, fistulotomy.

3.3 Please estimate the proportion of doctors in your specialty who are doing this procedure (choose one):

- More than 50% of specialists engaged in this area of work.
- 10% to 50% of specialists engaged in this area of work.
- Fewer than 10% of specialists engaged in this area of work.
- Cannot give an estimate.

Comments:

Not widely practiced.

4 Safety and efficacy

4.1 What is the potential harm of the procedure?

Please list adverse events and major risks (even if uncommon) and, if possible, estimate their incidence, as follows:

1. Adverse events reported in the literature (if possible please cite literature)

Nil to my knowledge

2. Anecdotal adverse events (known from experience)

Unable to answer with respect to this procedure. But nil concerns regarding permacol use for incontinence

3. Theoretical adverse events

Failure to heal tract. Abscess formation / perianal sepsis allowing new fistula tract formation

4.2 What are the key efficacy outcomes for this procedure?

Healing rates of fistulas. Absence of complication or morbidity

4.3 Are there uncertainties or concerns about the efficacy of this procedure? If so, what are they?

Notoriously, fistula plugs / glues have variable reporting of success rates in the literature. Some studies in this field are driven by pharmaceutical companies (Cook and Medtronic).

4.4 What training and facilities are needed to do this procedure safely?

Specialist Coloproctologist in a theatre environment with general anaesthesia

4.5 Are there any major trials or registries of this procedure currently in progress? If so, please list.

UK feasibility trial NCT02686580
Maerati 100 multicentre study NCT01624350

4.6 Are you aware of any abstracts that have been *recently* presented/ published on this procedure that may not be listed in a standard literature search, for example PUBMED? (This can include your own work). If yes, please list.

Please note that NICE will do a literature search: we are only asking you for any very recent or potentially obscure abstracts and papers. Please do not feel the need to supply a comprehensive reference list (but you may list any that you think are particularly important if you wish).

Nil recent

4.7 Is there controversy, or important uncertainty, about any aspect of the way in which this procedure is currently being done or disseminated?

No

5 Audit Criteria

Please suggest a minimum dataset of criteria by which this procedure could be audited.

Demographics (age, sex, comorbidity, presumed cause of fistula (cryptoglandular, Crohn's disease) smoking, immunosuppression status, Morphology of fistula (high / low, transphincteric, length of tract – long or short)

Procedure time

Healing rate

Recurrence

Complication

5.1 Outcome measures of benefit (including commonly used clinical outcomes, both short and long - term; and quality-of-life measures). Please suggest the most appropriate method of measurement for each:

Healing rates, recurrence and morbidity

Quality of life pre and post procedure short tem 6 weeks longer term 6 months

5.2 Adverse outcomes (including potential early and late complications). Please state timescales for measurement e.g. bleeding complications up to 1 month post-procedure:

6 Trajectory of the procedure

6.1 In your opinion, how quickly do you think use of this procedure will spread?

slowly

6.2 This procedure, if safe and efficacious, is likely to be carried out in (choose one):

- Most or all district general hospitals.
- A minority of hospitals, but at least 10 in the UK.
- Fewer than 10 specialist centres in the UK.
- Cannot predict at present.

Comments:

6.3 The potential impact of this procedure on the NHS, in terms of numbers of patients eligible for treatment and use of resources, is:

- Major.
- Moderate.
- Minor.

Comments:

7 Other information

7.1 Is there any other information about this procedure that might assist NICE in assessing the possible need to investigate its use?

8 Data protection and conflicts of interest

8. Data protection, freedom of information and conflicts of interest

8.1 Data Protection

The information you submit on this form will be retained and used by the NICE and its advisers for the purpose of developing its guidance and may be passed to other approved third parties. Your name and specialist society will be published in NICE publications and on the NICE website. The specialist advice questionnaire will be published in accordance with our guidance development processes and a copy will be sent to the nominating Specialist Society. Please avoid identifying any individual in your comments.

I have read and understood this statement and accept that personal information sent to us will be retained and used for the purposes and in the manner specified above and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

8.2 Declarations of interest by Specialist Advisers advising the NICE Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee

Nothing in your submission shall restrict any disclosure of information by NICE that is required by law (including in particular, but without limitation, the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

Please submit a conflicts of interest declaration form listing any potential conflicts of interest including any involvement you may have in disputes or complaints relating to this procedure.

Please use the “Conflicts of Interest for Specialist Advisers” policy as a guide when declaring any conflicts of interest. Specialist Advisers should seek advice if needed from the Associate Director – Interventional Procedures.

Do you or a member of your family¹ have a **personal pecuniary** interest? The main examples are as follows:

Consultancies or directorships attracting regular or occasional payments in cash or kind YES
 NO

Fee-paid work – any work commissioned by the healthcare industry – **this includes income earned in the course of private practice** YES
 NO

Shareholdings – any shareholding, or other beneficial interest, in shares of the healthcare industry YES
 NO

Expenses and hospitality – any expenses provided by a healthcare industry company beyond those reasonably required for accommodation, meals and travel to attend meetings and conferences YES
 NO

Investments – any funds that include investments in the healthcare industry YES
 NO

Do you have a **personal non-pecuniary** interest – for example have you made a public statement about the topic or do you hold an office in a professional organisation or advocacy group with a direct interest in the topic? YES
 NO

Do you have a **non-personal** interest? The main examples are as follows:

Fellowships endowed by the healthcare industry YES
 NO

¹ ‘Family members’ refers to a spouse or partner living in the same residence as the member or employee, children for whom the member or employee is legally responsible, and adults for whom the member or employee is legally responsible (for example, an adult whose full power of attorney is held by the individual).

Support by the healthcare industry or NICE that benefits his/her position or department, eg grants, sponsorship of posts

YES

NO

If you have answered YES to any of the above statements, please describe the nature of the conflict(s) below.

Comments:

Thank you very much for your help.

**Dr Tom Clutton-Brock, Interventional
Procedures Advisory Committee Chair**

**Mark Campbell
Acting Programme Director
Devices and Diagnostics**

June 2018

Conflicts of Interest for Specialist Advisers

1 Declarations of interest by Specialist Advisers advising the NICE Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee

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- 1.2 Specialist Advisers should seek advice if required from the Associate Director – Interventional Procedures.

2 Personal pecuniary interests

- 2.1 A personal pecuniary interest involves a current personal payment to a Specialist Adviser, which may either relate to the manufacturer or owner of a product or service being evaluated, in which case it is regarded as '**specific**' or to the industry or sector from which the product or service comes, in which case it is regarded as '**non-specific**'. The main examples are as follows.
 - 2.1.1 **Consultancies** – any consultancy, directorship, position in or work for the healthcare industry that attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or kind (this includes both those which have been undertaken in the 12 months preceding the point at which the declaration is made and which are planned but have not taken place).
 - 2.1.2 **Fee-paid work** – any work commissioned by the healthcare industry for which the member is paid in cash or in kind (this includes both those which have been undertaken in the 12 months preceding the point at which the declaration is made and which are planned but have not taken place).
 - 2.1.3 **Shareholdings** – any shareholding, or other beneficial interest, in shares of the healthcare industry that are either held by the individual or for which the individual has legal responsibility (for example, children, or relatives whose full Power of Attorney is held by the individual). This does not include shareholdings through unit trusts, pensions funds, or other similar arrangements where the member has no influence on financial management.
 - 2.1.4 **Expenses and hospitality** – any expenses provided by a healthcare industry company beyond that reasonably required for accommodation, meals and travel to attend meetings and conferences (this includes both those which have been undertaken in the 12 months preceding the point at which the declaration is made and which are planned but have not taken place).
 - 2.1.5 **Investments** – any funds which include investments in the healthcare industry that are held in a portfolio over which individuals have the ability to instruct the fund manager as to the composition of the fund.
- 2.2 No personal interest exists in the case of:
 - 2.2.1 assets over which individuals have no financial control (for example, wide portfolio unit trusts and occupational pension funds) and where the fund manager has full discretion as to its composition (for example, the Universities Superannuation Scheme)
 - 2.2.2 accrued pension rights from earlier employment in the healthcare industry.

3 **Personal family interest**

- 3.1 This relates to the personal interests of a family member and involves a **current payment** to the family member of the Specialist Adviser. The interest may relate to the manufacturer or owner of a product or service being evaluated, in which case it is regarded as '**specific**', or to the industry or sector from which the product or service comes, in which case it is regarded as '**non-specific**'. The main examples include the following.
- 3.1.1 Any consultancy, directorship, position in or work for a healthcare industry that attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or in kind.
- 3.1.2 Any fee-paid work commissioned by a healthcare industry for which the member is paid in cash or in kind.
- 3.1.3 Any shareholdings, or other beneficial interests, in a healthcare industry which are either held by the family member or for which an individual covered by this Code has legal responsibility (for example, children, or adults whose full Power of Attorney is held by the individual).
- 3.1.4 Expenses and hospitality provided by a healthcare industry company (except where they are provided to a general class of people such as attendees at an open conference)
- 3.1.5 Funds which include investments in the healthcare industry that are held in a portfolio over which individuals have the ability to instruct the fund manager as to the composition of the fund.
- 3.2 No personal family interest exists in the case of:
- 3.2.1 assets over which individuals have no financial control (for example, wide portfolio unit trusts and occupational pension funds) and where the fund manager has full discretion as to its composition (for example, the Universities Superannuation Scheme)
- 3.2.2 accrued pension rights from earlier employment in the healthcare industry.

4 **Personal non-pecuniary interests**

These might include, but are not limited to:

- 4.1 a clear opinion, reached as the conclusion of a research project, about the clinical and/or cost effectiveness of an intervention under review
- 4.2 a public statement in which an individual covered by this Code has expressed a clear opinion about the matter under consideration, which could reasonably be interpreted as prejudicial to an objective interpretation of the evidence
- 4.3 holding office in a professional organisation or advocacy group with a direct interest in the matter under consideration
- 4.4 other reputational risks in relation to an intervention under review.

5 **Non-personal interests**

- 5.1 A non-personal interest involves payment that benefits a department or organisation for which a Specialist Advisor is responsible, but that is not received by the Specialist Advisor personally. This may either relate to the product or service being evaluated, in which case it is regarded as '**specific**,' or to the manufacturer or owner of the product or service, but is unrelated to the matter under consideration, in which case it is regarded as '**non-specific**'. The main examples are as follows.

- 5.1.1 **Fellowships** – the holding of a fellowship endowed by the healthcare industry.
- 5.1.2 **Support by the healthcare industry or NICE** – any payment, or other support by the healthcare industry or by NICE that does not convey any pecuniary or material benefit to a member personally but that does benefit his/her position or department. For example:
- a grant from a company for the running of a unit or department for which a Specialist Advisor is responsible
 - a grant, fellowship or other payment to sponsor a post or member of staff in the unit for which a Specialist Advisor is responsible. This does not include financial assistance for students
 - the commissioning of research or other work by, or advice from, staff who work in a unit for which the specialist advisor is responsible
 - one or more contracts with, or grants from, NICE.
- 5.2 Specialist Advisers are under no obligation to seek out knowledge of work done for, or on behalf of, the healthcare industry within departments for which they are responsible if they would not normally expect to be informed.

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Interventional Procedures Programme

Specialist Adviser questionnaire

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Please respond in the boxes provided.

Please complete and return to: azad.hussain@nice.org.uk and IPSA@nice.org.uk

Procedure Name: Collagen paste for closing an anal fistula

Name of Specialist Advisor: Toby Hammond

Specialist Society: Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland

1 Do you have adequate knowledge of this procedure to provide advice?

Yes.

No – please return the form/answer no more questions.

1.1 Does the title used above describe the procedure adequately?

Yes.

No. If no, please enter any other titles below.

Comments:

Collagen paste for the treatment of anal fistula

2 Your involvement in the procedure

2.1 Is this procedure relevant to your specialty?

Yes.

Is there any kind of inter-specialty controversy over the procedure?

- No. If no, then answer no more questions, but please give any information you can about who is likely to be doing the procedure.

Comments:

The next 2 questions are about whether you carry out the procedure, or refer patients for it. If you are in a specialty that normally carries out the procedure please answer question 2.2.1. If you are in a specialty that normally selects or refers patients for the procedure, please answer question 2.2.2.

2.2.1 If you are in a specialty that does this procedure, please indicate your experience with it:

- I have never done this procedure.
- √ I have done this procedure at least once.
- I do this procedure regularly.

Comments:

2.2.2 If your specialty is involved in patient selection or referral to another specialty for this procedure, please indicate your experience with it.

- I have never taken part in the selection or referral of a patient for this procedure.
- √ I have taken part in patient selection or referred a patient for this procedure at least once.
- I take part in patient selection or refer patients for this procedure regularly.

Comments:

2.3 Please indicate your research experience relating to this procedure (please choose one or more if relevant):

- I have done bibliographic research on this procedure.
- I have done research on this procedure in laboratory settings (e.g. device-related research).
- √ I have done clinical research on this procedure involving patients or healthy volunteers.

- I have had no involvement in research on this procedure.
- Other (please comment)

Comments:

3 Status of the procedure

3.1 Which of the following best describes the procedure (choose one):

- Established practice and no longer new.
- A minor variation on an existing procedure, which is unlikely to alter the procedure's safety and efficacy.
- Definitely novel and of uncertain safety and efficacy.
- The first in a new class of procedure.

Comments:

There have relatively recently been 4 reported studies on collagen paste for anal fistulas (1 prospective cohort & 3 retrospective) which have helped establish its place in the armamentarium of techniques used to treat anal fistulas, but I would not call the procedure established or new.

3.2 What would be the comparator (standard practice) to this procedure?

Other more established sphincter conserving treatments such as the mucosal anal advancement flap or LIFT procedure

3.3 Please estimate the proportion of doctors in your specialty who are doing this procedure (choose one):

- More than 50% of specialists engaged in this area of work.
- 10% to 50% of specialists engaged in this area of work.
- Fewer than 10% of specialists engaged in this area of work.
- Cannot give an estimate.

Comments:

4 Safety and efficacy

4.1 What is the potential harm of the procedure?

Please list adverse events and major risks (even if uncommon) and, if possible, estimate their incidence, as follows:

1. Adverse events reported in the literature (if possible please cite literature)

Infection including abscess formation

Pain

Bleeding

(Giordano P, Sileri P, Buntzen S, Stuto A, Nunoo-Mensah J, Lenisa L, Singh B, Thorlacius-Ussing O, Griffiths B, Ziyaie D. Final results of a European, multicentre, prospective, observational study of Permacol collagen paste injection for the treatment of anal fistula. *Colorectal Disease* 2017. 20 (3): 243–251)

2. Anecdotal adverse events (known from experience)

3. Theoretical adverse events

4.2 What are the key efficacy outcomes for this procedure?

Fistula healing

Quality of life (QoL) data

4.3 Are there uncertainties or concerns about the *efficacy* of this procedure? If so, what are they?

QoL data unknown

4.4 What training and facilities are needed to do this procedure safely?

Minimal training.

Facilities: Operating theatre & Collagen Paste kit

4.5 Are there any major trials or registries of this procedure currently in progress? If so, please list.

Not that I'm aware of

4.6 Are you aware of any abstracts that have been *recently* presented/ published on this procedure that may not be listed in a standard literature search, for example PUBMED? (This can include your own work). If yes, please list.

Please note that NICE will do a literature search: we are only asking you for any very recent or potentially obscure abstracts and papers. Please do not feel the need to supply a comprehensive reference list (but you may list any that you think are particularly important if you wish).

No

4.7 Is there controversy, or important uncertainty, about any aspect of the way in which this procedure is currently being done or disseminated?

No

5 Audit Criteria

Please suggest a minimum dataset of criteria by which this procedure could be audited.

There is no national or regional standards to compare the outcomes of this procedure.

Fistula healing could be audited against the outcomes for the fistula surgeons standard practice for anal fistulas

5.1 Outcome measures of benefit (including commonly used clinical outcomes, both short and long - term; and quality-of-life measures). Please suggest the most appropriate method of measurement for each:

Patient reported quality of life

Fistula healing

Continence disturbance

5.2 Adverse outcomes (including potential early and late complications). Please state timescales for measurement e.g. bleeding complications up to 1 month post-procedure:

The most important significant adverse outcomes are:

- **Failure of fistula to heal – up to 2 years post operatively**
- **Anorectal sepsis – up to 3 months post operatively**
- **Bleeding – up to 4 weeks post operatively**
- **Pain (not related to infection) – up to 4 weeks post-operatively**

6 Trajectory of the procedure

6.1 In your opinion, how quickly do you think use of this procedure will spread?

I do not think it's use will become widespread

6.2 This procedure, if safe and efficacious, is likely to be carried out in (choose one):

Most or all district general hospitals.

- A minority of hospitals, but at least 10 in the UK.
- Fewer than 10 specialist centres in the UK.
- Cannot predict at present.

Comments:

6.3 The potential impact of this procedure on the NHS, in terms of numbers of patients eligible for treatment and use of resources, is:

- Major.
- Moderate.
- Minor.

Comments:

The role for collagen paste is likely to be for patients with very high anal fistulas in whom other sphincter preserving procedures have failed or not feasible. This is likely to be <10% of all cases

7 Other information

7.1 Is there any other information about this procedure that might assist NICE in assessing the possible need to investigate its use?

Not that I'm aware of

8 Data protection and conflicts of interest

8. Data protection, freedom of information and conflicts of interest

8.1 Data Protection

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Do you or a member of your family¹ have a **personal pecuniary** interest? The main examples are as follows:

Consultancies or directorships attracting regular or occasional payments in cash or kind **NO**

Fee-paid work – any work commissioned by the healthcare industry – **this includes income earned in the course of private practice** **NO**

Shareholdings – any shareholding, or other beneficial interest, in shares of the healthcare industry **NO**

Expenses and hospitality – any expenses provided by a healthcare industry company beyond those reasonably required for accommodation, meals and travel to attend meetings and conferences **NO**

Investments – any funds that include investments in the healthcare industry **NO**

Do you have a **personal non-pecuniary** interest – for example have you made a public statement about the topic or do you hold an office in a professional organisation or advocacy group with a direct interest in the topic? **NO**

Do you have a **non-personal** interest? The main examples are as follows: **NO**

¹ ‘Family members’ refers to a spouse or partner living in the same residence as the member or employee, children for whom the member or employee is legally responsible, and adults for whom the member or employee is legally responsible (for example, an adult whose full power of attorney is held by the individual).

Support by the healthcare industry or NICE that benefits his/her position or department, eg grants, sponsorship of posts

NO

If you have answered YES to any of the above statements, please describe the nature of the conflict(s) below.

Comments:

Thank you very much for your help.

**Dr Tom Clutton-Brock, Interventional
Procedures Advisory Committee Chair**

**Mark Campbell
Acting Programme Director
Devices and Diagnostics**

June 2018

Conflicts of Interest for Specialist Advisers

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3 **Personal family interest**

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4 **Personal non-pecuniary interests**

These might include, but are not limited to:

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- 4.2 a public statement in which an individual covered by this Code has expressed a clear opinion about the matter under consideration, which could reasonably be interpreted as prejudicial to an objective interpretation of the evidence
- 4.3 holding office in a professional organisation or advocacy group with a direct interest in the matter under consideration
- 4.4 other reputational risks in relation to an intervention under review.

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- 5.1.1 **Fellowships** – the holding of a fellowship endowed by the healthcare industry.
- 5.1.2 **Support by the healthcare industry or NICE** – any payment, or other support by the healthcare industry or by NICE that does not convey any pecuniary or material benefit to a member personally but that does benefit his/her position or department. For example:
- a grant from a company for the running of a unit or department for which a Specialist Advisor is responsible
 - a grant, fellowship or other payment to sponsor a post or member of staff in the unit for which a Specialist Advisor is responsible. This does not include financial assistance for students
 - the commissioning of research or other work by, or advice from, staff who work in a unit for which the specialist advisor is responsible
 - one or more contracts with, or grants from, NICE.
- 5.2 Specialist Advisers are under no obligation to seek out knowledge of work done for, or on behalf of, the healthcare industry within departments for which they are responsible if they would not normally expect to be informed.