

Percutaneous image-guided cryoablation of peripheral neuroma for chronic pain

Information for the public

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This procedure can only be done as part of a research study. This is because there is not enough evidence to be sure how well it works or how safe it is.

Your healthcare professional should talk to you about the research.

Neuromas are thickenings of tissue around a nerve. Peripheral neuromas affect nerves outside the brain and spinal cord that can carry pain signals between the brain and the rest of the body. Neuromas can cause chronic pain. In this procedure, a needle-like probe is inserted through the skin (percutaneous). Ultrasound, CT or MRI imaging is used to guide the probe near to the neuroma. The probe freezes the nerve to destroy a small part of it (cryoablation) and stop the pain signals. The nerve will slowly recover and the pain can come back, so the procedure may need to be repeated.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

Information and support

- [NICE's information on interventional procedures guidance](#) explains what an interventional procedure is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on interventional procedures recommendations](#) explains what only in research means.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

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