

## Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
Appraisal	Extracorporeal shockwave therapy for refractory plantar fasciitis
Details	The NHS North East Treatment Advisory Group was requested to conduct an appraisal of and issue a recommendation for the use of extracorporeal shockwave therapy for refractory plantar fasciitis.
Recommendation	<p><b>The NHS North East Treatment Advisory Group does not recommend extracorporeal shock-wave therapy (ESWT) for plantar fasciitis.</b></p> <p>The group was concerned that clinical evidence for ESWT had not convincingly demonstrated the treatment is effective in the management of plantar fasciitis.</p>
Clinical evidence summary	The group was disappointed that none of the clinical evidence published since the relevant NICE guidance (IPG 311, August 2009) meets the criteria specified by NICE for further research on ESWT. The group noted that effects of ESWT compared with other treatment options are limited and sometimes inferior. The group was concerned with the quality of some of the studies and noted the uncertainty regarding the mode of action of ESWT in the treatment of tendonopathies such as PF.
Cost analysis summary	The group felt that the estimated cost of ESWT at about £260 per course of three treatment sessions represents a minimum cost and that actual costs could be greater depending on tariff coding. The group noted that ESWT had been estimated to be a relatively low-cost intervention in a difficult-to-treat patient group and with comparable costs to other non-invasive treatment options. ESWT is expected to be substantially less costly than surgical interventions for PF.
Financial impact	The group was gratefully in receipt of detailed audit data provided by a local clinician. This indicated that overall treatment volumes would be low, currently at between 20 and 30 patients per annum. On this basis the group felt that the overall financial impact of the treatment would be low however the impact might not be evenly distributed across NHS North East PCTs and the group acknowledged that a positive recommendation could have an inflationary effect on treatment rates.
PbR: Excluded	
Further research or information	

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