Northern Treatment Advisory Group

Northern (NHS) Treatment Advisory Group

Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	20th November 2018 (reviewed 22nd February 2022 & no changes made)
Appraisal & Details	The Northern (NHS) Treatment Advisory Group considered an appraisal of **Actipatch® for management of localised musculoskeletal pain.**
Recommendation	**The Northern (NHS) Treatment Advisory Group <u>does not</u> recommend the use of Actipatch® for management of localised musculoskeletal pain on the NHS.** Should patients wish to use the device it can be purchased over the counter. The group was concerned that the published clinical evidence was not sufficient to demonstrate the product's efficacy, and evidence from high quality randomised controlled trials was lacking. There are no RCTs comparing the efficacy of Actipatch® with other pharmacological or non-pharmacological interventions for localised musculoskeletal pain.
Clinical evidence summary	The place in therapy remains unclear due to limited evidence base and uncertainty surrounding the clinical importance of unpublished trial findings. In a small RCT in patients with osteoarthritis of the knee (n=60) with the ActiPatch® device was associated with a reduction in VAS pain and WOMAC score compared with placebo. Patients were only followed up for one month; this is not a sufficient period of time to evaluate the efficacy of the device for a chronic condition. Furthermore the study is only in comparison to placebo and patients continued to take analgesic medications. The other trials are registry studies that do not have a control group, are self-selected and self-reported studies. A registry study evaluated efficacy of the device in subjects with chronic musculoskeletal pain due to a variety of aetiologies. After using a trial device for seven days, 65% of subjects reported a benefit from the trial device, with an average pain reduction in these individuals of 57%. A three month follow-up survey showed sustained pain relief; decreased analgesic use and improved QoL. In a second registry study in subjects with chronic back pain, 52% of subjects reported a benefit from the trial device, with a mean pain reduction of 66%. Over the same period, 36% of subjects had a decrease in their medication use, and 14% stopped using pain medications. Due to the limitations of the registry design, the self-selected enrolment and self-reported nature of data collection, and the lack of a control group these findings should be interpreted with caution. A literature search for published evidence since NTAG last reviewed in November 2018 found three new trials but two only published as conference abstracts. NTAG agreed there was no significant new evidence to change current NTAG recommendation.
Safety	The long term safety and efficacy of Actipatch® is unknown. No major adverse events associated with the ActiPatch device were reported during the placebo-controlled trial or in the two large registry studies. Minor issues

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<table>
<tr><td></td><td>concerning attachment of the device and a reaction to the adhesive medical tape were reported in some instances.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Patient Perspective</td><td>Analgesics are only effective in a small proportion of patients with chronic pain. Non-pharmacological treatment may be effective in reducing long-term pain and disability in some people with chronic pain, and can be used to augment and complement analgesic use. ActiPatch® is a wearable pulsed electromagnetic field device for the management of localised musculoskeletal pain.

Actipatch® is available to purchase by patients online or via some community pharmacies should they wish to try the device.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cost analysis summary</td><td>Three versions of the ActiPatch device are available, with each product specifically tailored for the treatment of knee pain, back pain or muscle and joint pain. Each device has an on/off function and lasts for 720 hours. All three products can be purchased without prescription online and OTC at a retail cost of £18 to £28 per device. The device was added to the NHS Drug Tariff in May 2018 at a cost of £13.95 for each of the three products (cost still current as of January 2022).

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>One month (24 hours/day)</th><th>One month (8 hours/day)</th><th>Twelve months (24 hours/day)</th><th>Twelve months (8 hours/day)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Primary Care (includes activity fee)</td><td>£15.24</td><td>£5.08</td><td>£182.88</td><td>£60.96</td></tr>
<tr><td>Secondary Care (Inc. VAT)</td><td>£16.74</td><td>£5.58</td><td>£200.88</td><td>£66.96</td></tr>
<tr><td>OTC / Online</td><td>£25.00</td><td>£8.33</td><td>£245.00</td><td>£98.33</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Financial impact

PbR: NA</td><td>The financial impact of this recommendation is expected to be nil.</td></tr>
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