

Title: Endoluminal grafting for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)
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Agency: Medicare Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)
Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
<http://www.msac.gov.au>

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Aim

To assess the safety and effectiveness of the procedure and under what circumstances public funding should be supported for the procedure.

Conclusions and results

Safety Although effective in the short-term (according to case series data) the long-term safety of the procedure and the graft devices could not be established.

Effectiveness Effectiveness and durability of the procedure have not been established.

Cost-effectiveness No rigorous Australian cost comparison with the comparator, open repair procedure, is available.

Recommendations

- Current funding arrangements for AAA be restricted to open aortic repair; but
- endoluminal repair continue to receive funding under alternate arrangements; and
- an informed consent protocol must be formulated and provided to prospective patients;
- MSAC fosters a collaborative partnership with stakeholders in regard to data collection; and
- the procedure be reviewed when data become available.

Method

MSAC conducted a systematic review of medical literature via Medline, Biosis, EmBase, Pascal, the Cochrane Library and ISTAHC (ed.1) from the period of database commencement until September 1998.