EndoVE® for colorectal cancer

**TECHNOLOGY**

EndoVE® is a device in development by MitaMed Ltd, which is intended to reduce the size of colorectal cancer tumours which cannot be removed surgically and so might cause obstruction to the bowel.

The EndoVE® device is a specialised attachment used with an endoscope. It delivers electric pulses to the target tumour which are intended to make the tumour tissue temporarily more porous and therefore absorb certain chemotherapeutic drugs more effectively. The technique is known as electrochemotherapy. In an ongoing clinical trial the device has been used in combination with intravenously administered bleomycin or intratumourally injected cisplatin.

The company state the treatment is conducted under sedation in less than 30 minutes and clinicians already conducting colonoscopies will have the necessary skillset required to conduct the procedure.

CE marking and launch for private clinical use in the UK are planned for late 2013 with launch for clinical use in the NHS planned in early 2014.

**POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT**

The company state the delivery of electroporation energy to facilitate drug absorption by colorectal tumours is entirely novel. They also claim the device allows for an outpatient endoscopy procedure to ablate colorectal tumours without destroying healthy tissue structures and that the chemotherapy needed is only 1-5% of the conventional dose.
If shown to be effective, the procedure may benefit patients by minimising the dose of chemotherapy needed to reduce the size of a bowel tumour, therefore reducing the side effects. There may also be a reduction in the need for emergency stenting to bypass an obstructing tumour and the hospital stays that would be associated with that event.

The procedure may be of particular benefit to patients who are unsuitable or unfit for surgical resection. Tumour reduction in these patients may reduce the risk of obstruction which is a painful and dangerous condition requiring urgent medical attention.

If this device is shown to be effective and given a role in the prevention of bowel obstruction in those with colorectal cancer there may be potential savings for the health service in terms of drug costs and reduced hospitalisations and improved management of tumour complications.

**EVIDENCE**

**PUBLISHED PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS**


**ONGOING STUDIES**


**INFORMATION FROM**

This Alert is based on information from the company and a time-limited internet search.