Effective Health Care Program

Life of a Topic—An Example

Topic Generation

Suggestion: Effectiveness of Nonsurgical Breast Biopsy

Topic Development

Selection: After review through a preliminary literature scan and discussion, topic accepted for research.

Topic Refinement

Draft Questions Posted for Public Comment—Final Questions:

Key Question 1

In women with a palpable or nonpalpable breast abnormality, what is the accuracy of different types of core-needle breast biopsy compared with open biopsy for diagnosis?

Key Question 2

In women with a palpable or nonpalpable breast abnormality, what are the harms associated with different types of core-needle breast biopsy compared with open biopsy for diagnosis?

Key Question 3

How do open biopsy and various core-needle techniques differ in terms of patient preference, availability, costs, availability of qualified pathologist interpretations, and other factors that may influence choice of a particular technique?

Research Review

Draft Report Posted for Public Comment—Final Research Review:
Comparative Effectiveness of Core-Needle and Open Surgical Biopsy for the Diagnosis of Breast Lesions

Report Translation

Research Summaries:

Consumer Summary – Having a Breast Biopsy in English and Spanish

Clinician Research Summary – Core-Needle Breast Biopsy Abnormalities

Policy Brief produced for many topics.

Decision Aids for patients produced for some topics.

Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Education Programs available for most topics.

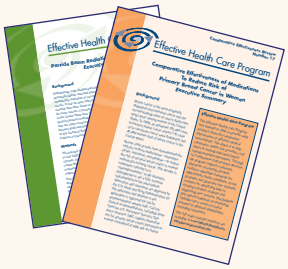
AHRQ
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Advancing Excellence in Health Care • www.ahrq.gov

Priority Conditions

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services establishes priority health conditions for the Effective Health Care Program based on discussions with and extensive input from the public and Federal agencies.

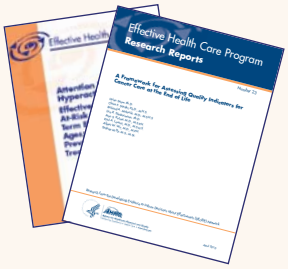
- Arthritis & non-traumatic joint disorders
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease
- Depression & mental health
- Developmental delays, ADHD, & autism
- Diabetes
- Functional limitations & disability
- Infectious diseases, including AIDS
- Obesity
- Peptic ulcer & dyspepsia
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary disease/ asthma
- Substance abuse

Effective Health Care Program Research Products



Research Reviews: These comprehensive reports draw on completed scientific studies to compare different health care interventions. They also show where more research is needed. Research reviews include comparative effectiveness reviews, effectiveness reviews, and technical briefs.

Research Summaries: These short, plain-language summaries–tailored to clinicians, consumers, or policymakers–summarize findings on the benefits and harms of different treatment options. Summaries for consumers provide useful background on health conditions and are available in English and Spanish, on the Web, and in print. Clinician research summaries and policy briefs rate the strength of evidence behind the research findings. Summaries on medications also contain basic wholesale price information.



Original Research Reports: These reports are based on clinical research and studies that use health care databases and other scientific resources and approaches to explore practical questions about the effectiveness–or benefits and harms–of treatments.

Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Education: Free accredited, online modules for physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, and other allied health professionals are available.

Decision Aids: Some research summaries also include online decision aids with videos and questionnaires for patients.

For free copies, email ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov or call 800-358-9295.

www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov

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Replaces AHRQ Pub. No. 10-EHC027
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