Request for Comments

In accordance with the above-cited Paperwork Reduction Act legislation, comments on AHRQ’s information collection are requested with regard to any of the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of AHRQ health care research and health care information dissemination functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of AHRQ’s estimate of burden (including hours and costs) of the proposed collection(s) of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information upon the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and other forms of information technology.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Scientific Information Request on Imaging Tests for the Diagnosis and Staging of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), HHS.

ACTION: Request for scientific information submissions.

SUMMARY: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is seeking scientific information submissions from the public on imaging tests for the diagnosis and staging of pancreatic adenocarcinoma. Scientific information is being solicited to inform our review of Imaging Tests for the Diagnosis and Staging of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma, which is currently being conducted by the Evidence-based Practice Centers for the AHRQ Effective Health Care Program. Access to published and unpublished pertinent scientific information on imaging tests for the diagnosis and staging of pancreatic adenocarcinoma will improve the quality of this review. AHRQ is conducting this comparative effectiveness review pursuant to Section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, Public Law 108–173, and Section 902(a) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 299a(a).

DATES: Submission Deadline on or before September 26, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Online submissions: http://effectivehealthcare.AHRQ.gov/index.cfm/submit-scientific-information-packets/. Please select the study for which you are submitting information from the list to upload your documents.

Email submissions: SIPS@epc-src.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robin Paynter, Research Librarian, Telephone: 503–220–8262 ext. 58652 or Email: SIPS@epc-src.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has commissioned the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program Evidence-based Practice Centers to complete a review of the evidence for Imaging Tests for the Diagnosis and Staging of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma. The EHC Program is dedicated to identifying as many studies as possible that are relevant to the questions for each of its reviews. In order to do so, we are supplementing the usual manual and electronic database searches of the literature by requesting information from the public (e.g., details of studies conducted). We are looking for studies that report on Imaging Tests for the Diagnosis and Staging of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma, including those that describe adverse events. The entire research protocol, including the key questions, is also available online at:
The systematic review will answer the following questions. This information is provided as background. AHRQ is not requesting that the public provide answers to these questions. The entire research protocol, is also available online at: http://effectivehealthcare.AHRQ.gov/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productID=1620.

The Key Questions

Question 1
What is the comparative effectiveness of imaging techniques (e.g., MDCT angiography ± 3D reconstruction, other MDCT, EUS–FNA, PET–CT, MRI) for diagnosis of pancreatic adenocarcinoma in adults with suspicious symptoms?

a. What is the accuracy of each imaging technique for diagnosis and assessment of resectability?

b. What is the comparative accuracy of the different imaging techniques for diagnosis and assessment of resectability?

c. What is the comparative diagnostic accuracy of using a single imaging technique versus using multiple imaging techniques?

d. How is test experience (e.g., operative experience, assessor experience, center’s annual volume) related to comparative staging accuracy of the different imaging strategies?

e. What are patient perspectives on the tolerability of different imaging techniques and the balance of benefits and harms of different imaging techniques?

f. What is the comparative clinical management of the different imaging strategies when used for staging?

What is the comparative impact of the different imaging strategies on long-term survival and quality of life when used for staging?

Question 2
What is the comparative effectiveness of imaging techniques (e.g., MDCT angiography ± 3D reconstruction, other MDCT, EUS–FNA, PET–CT, MRI) when used to diagnose and/or stage pancreatic adenocarcinoma among adults with a diagnosis of pancreatic adenocarcinoma?

a. What is the staging accuracy of each imaging technique (for tumor size, lymph node status, vessel involvement, metastases, stage [I–IV], and resectability)?

b. What is the comparative staging accuracy among the different imaging techniques?

c. What is the comparative staging accuracy of using a single imaging technique versus using multiple imaging techniques?