NICE Guidelines 2016

Optimising Laboratory Investigations for Suspected Myeloma

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has created guidelines (*see section 2.1*) recommending the use of serum protein electrophoresis and serum free light-chain assay to confirm the presence of a paraprotein indicating possible myeloma or monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS).

...optimised laboratory investigations for suspected myeloma would result in a number of benefits including potential earlier diagnosis leading to a reduction in complications...

...urine testing was only done in a fraction of the people being tested. This could have resulted in potential missed diagnoses...

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...the net effect of the recommendations was likely to be neutral – with no significant increase or saving in costs.

...as a consequence of earlier diagnosis there would be reduced costs of dealing with the complications of the disease (for example dialysis, bone disease etc.).



To see the 2016 NICE Guidelines in full, please scan here

General Protocol prior to NICE guidelines

Myeloma Suspicion SPE uBJP ----One or both SPE negative and Both negative positive urine unavailable Confirm and type monoclonal band by Serum IFE Mveloma still Probable Myeloma still possible Monoclonal (eg LCMM, NSMM, AL etc) possible (uBJP test Gammopathy - potential missed can be insensitive such as Myeloma: diagnosis due to renal suggest referral to absorption of Haematologist light chains)

2016 Protocol recommended by NICE



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