

IQWiG Reports – Commission No. E14-11

**Transcorneal electrical
stimulation for retinitis
pigmentosa¹
(Addendum to Commission
E14-07)**

Executive Summary

¹ Translation of the executive summary of the addendum *Transkorneale Elektrostimulation bei Retinopathia Pigmentosa (Addendum zum Auftrag E14-07)* (Version 1.0; Status: 3 March 2015). Please note: This translation is provided as a service by IQWiG to English-language readers. However, solely the German original text is absolutely authoritative and legally binding.

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Institut für Qualität und Wirtschaftlichkeit im Gesundheitswesen
Im Mediapark 8
50670 Köln
Germany

Phone: +49 221 35685-0

Fax: +49 221 35685-1

E-mail: berichte@iqwig.de

Internet: www.iqwig.de

IQWiG employees involved in the addendum²:

- Sebastian Grümer
- Julia Kreis
- Dorothea Gechter
- Ulrich Grouven

² Due to legal data protection regulations, employees have the right not to be named.

Executive summary

With its letter of 9 December 2014, the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) commissioned the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) with a supplementary assessment of commission E14-07 in order to evaluate the conclusions on the potential (in terms of §137e Social Code Book V) of the method of transcorneal electrical stimulation (TES) in retinitis pigmentosa (RP).

Research question

The aim of this examination was to determine for TES in RP whether, besides the documents already used in the assessment of potential E14-07, further relevant studies or publications on relevant studies exist. If this was the case, it was to be evaluated whether, under their consideration, the present examination or treatment method still offers potential. Furthermore, it was to be evaluated whether, besides the studies already used in the assessment of potential, there are any ongoing studies that in principle are suited to demonstrate a benefit of the method in the near future.

Methods

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and publications on RCTs were included that investigated the method of TES in RP regarding patient-relevant outcomes and that had not already been used in the framework of the assessment of potential.

For this purpose, a systematic literature search was performed in the following databases: MEDLINE, Embase, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials). In addition, a search for relevant systematic reviews took place in the databases MEDLINE and Embase in parallel with the search for relevant primary studies. Searches were also conducted in the databases Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews), Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (Other Reviews), and the Health Technology Assessment Database (Technology Assessments). In expectation of the commission, the search was conducted on 6 November 2014. In addition, systematic reviews and publicly available study registries were searched.

The selection of relevant studies was performed by 2 reviewers independently of each other for the result from the bibliographic literature search and from the search in publicly accessible trial registries, and for potentially relevant studies from systematic reviews.

The assessment, synthesis and analysis of information followed the principles described in the Institute's methods paper.

Results

No additional completed or ongoing studies were identified in the systematic evidence search. Likewise, no relevant additional information on the studies already used in the assessment of potential was identified.

Conclusion

After evaluation using a systematic literature search, TES in RP still possesses a potential. Beyond those studies already considered in the assessment of potential, no further completed or ongoing studies were found that in principle would be suited to demonstrate a benefit of the method in the near future.

Keywords: electric stimulation therapy, retinitis pigmentosa, assessment of potential

The full report (German version) is published under
<https://www.iqwig.de/en/projects-results/projects/non-drug-interventions/e14-11-transcorneal-electrical-stimulation-for-retinitis-pigmentosa-addendum-to-commission-e14-07.7941.html>.