



NSW
Therapeutic
Advisory
Group Inc.

Advancing
quality use
of medicines
in NSW

Group Discussion: Use of formalin for radiation proctitis

Date: April 2018

Question:

NSW TAG received an enquiry from a member regarding the formulary listing of formalin for radiation proctitis/ chronic radiation-induced rectal bleeding. If not listed, what alternative is on formulary/used to treat this condition at your institution?

Background:

EviQ have published clinical guidance regarding radiation proctitis at <https://www.eviq.org.au/clinical-resources/radiation-oncology/421-management-of-radiation-induced-proctitis> With respect to the use of formalin: the guidance states that there is limited evidence to support its use¹.

Responses:

5 responses were received.

Canterbury

To my knowledge, no incidents of radiation proctitis/chronic radiation induced bleeding here.

Liverpool

Our CTC Pharmacy and they tell me that here we don't tend to treat it in any way other than supportive therapy and prevention. They have also pointed out a comprehensive review on EviQ.

Port Macquarie & Kempsey

Formalin MAY be available in pathology in our hospitals.

Our urologists said it should never be used because it will kill the tissue in the area. From a urological standpoint, they ask for alum bladder instillation (which has to be filtered by hand into large bags of fluid for instillation). We have looked at topical tranexamic acid.

South East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD)

Formalin is not listed on the SESLHD formulary.

St George

We use Scheriproct. Formalin is not formulary

Responses received as at 28th April 2018

Please note that all information and policies are only current at the time the response is sent and individual hospitals should be contacted to ascertain current policies and practices. The responses received are only representative of the hospitals participating in the discussion at the time and do not necessarily indicate a complete picture of current practices. Information sharing occurs on the understanding that due acknowledgement will be given to the original source and that the information will not be quoted or used out of the context of the discussion. Permission should be sought from the original source before any policy, protocol or guideline is used or applied in another setting.

¹ Reference: Lalla, R. V., J. Bowen, A. Barasch, et al. 2014. "MASCC/ISOO clinical practice guidelines for the management of mucositis secondary to cancer therapy." *Cancer* 120(10):1453-1461.