

Title:	Intravascular extraction of chronically implanted permanent transvenous pacing leads October 1999
Agency:	Medicare Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia http://www.msac.gov.au
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Aim

To assess the safety and effectiveness of the procedure and under what circumstances public funding should be supported for the procedure.

Conclusions and results

<i>Safety</i>	Complications from the procedure are uncommon although near fatal/fatal adverse events are sometimes reported. No comparative safety profile with open heart surgery is available.
<i>Effectiveness</i>	The procedure is effective (78-97%) with minimal invasiveness.
<i>Cost-effectiveness</i>	This was not completed due to insufficient data on comparative efficacy/effectiveness.

Recommendations

- Additional funding should be supported for the procedure where the leads have been implanted for more than three months and require use of surgical tools and countertraction for their removal; and
- the procedure should be restricted to cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons who have specialist training in the procedure and who are willing to participate in an audit program administered by the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand in order to achieve accreditation.

Method

MSAC conducted a systematic review of medical literature via Medline and HealthSTAR from 1966-June 1999.