

Title:	Computer-Assisted Image Analysis For Cervical Screening, May 2003
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Aim

To assess the safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of computer-assisted image analysis for cervical screening cytology compared with manual processing.

Conclusions and results

Safety Computer-assisted image analysis is conducted in the laboratory on the same slides as conventional cervical cytology. The safety issues with this technology are the same as those for the cytological assessment methods in current use.

Effectiveness There is insufficient evidence to assess whether computer-assisted image analysis is as effective as manual processing for cervical screening cytology.

Cost-effectiveness Due to insufficient evidence of clinical effectiveness, an economic evaluation could not be performed.

Recommendations

There is insufficient evidence to support public funding of computer-assisted image analysis for cervical screening at this time.

Method

MSAC conducted a systematic review of medical literature using the Cochrane Library, Medline, PreMedline, Current Contents, Biological Abstracts, CINAHL and EMBASE databases from January 1966 to September 2002 to identify the accuracy and precision of the tests and their usefulness in terms of patient outcomes. This report adopted the criteria for assessment of validity of evidence recommended by the Cochrane Methods Working Group on Systematic Review of Screening and Diagnostic Tests.