



Health Technology Review	
Technology Ref.:	HTA19010
Technology Name:	Thermal Ablation of Thyroid Nodules by Radiofrequency
Approvals by International Bodies:	FDA Approval on Devices used for the treatment
Company name:	Imperial College London Diabetes Centre (ICLDC)
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Short Description of the Technology:	Thermal ablation is a new, minimally invasive modality employed as an alternative to surgery in patients with benign thyroid nodules and recurrent thyroid cancers.
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Health Technology Assessment Team Recommendation:	Limited Approval
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Summary of Review:

In recent years, Ultrasound-guided minimally invasive techniques have gained wide acceptance as nonsurgical procedures for volume reduction of large thyroid nodules and improvement of local pressure and/or cosmetic symptoms. The two used techniques are Laser Ablation and Radiofrequency Ablation.

There are many researches done to prove the safety and efficacy of Thermal Ablation and organizations such as the Korean Society of Thyroid Radiology, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) have already issued guidelines on using Thermal Ablation as a treatment for benign thyroid nodules. The below table is a highlight the advantage and disadvantage:

Advantages	Disadvantages
The effectiveness is supported by many researches.	Limited amount of studies conducted comparing Thermal Ablation to Surgery.
Recommended by multiple institutes and associations	Some adverse reactions were reported but still less than surgery
Covered by insurance in some European and East Asian countries.	
Well established procedures and guidelines are available worldwide	
Cheaper solution than surgery	
Faster recovery rates which leads to less sick leaves needed	



The comparison between the Thermal Ablation and the current treatment method of benign thyroid nodules shows that Thermal Ablation is effective and can be used as an alternative to surgery in most cases.

After reviewing the technology and the feedback of the consulted SME, the HTA team have decided to **Recommend** this technology **for the use on Benign Thyroid Nodules only** if the facility trained and certified personnel to use it and to deal with potential emergencies during the procedure.