

**VA TAP – Technology Assessment WATCH – November/December 2003**  
**Special issue on prostatic diseases**

This monthly E-mail newsletter, produced by the **VA Technology Assessment Program (VATAP)**, brings you health technology assessment (HTA) reports & resources in VA plus links to evidence-based resources from around the world: *news you can use!*

**VA TAP** produces evidence-based systematic reviews of the medical literature in response to requests for policy or clinical guidance sent through the Chief Officer of Patient Care Services. These reports address the use of health care technologies (such as any device, process, drug, or therapeutic intervention) in the veteran population. For more information & access to all our publications, plus links to HTA resources around the world, check out the **VA TAP** websites: <http://www.va.gov/vatap> <http://vaww.va.gov/vatap>

**Recent HTA Reports From VATAP**

**Two recent VA TAP quality filtered, selective bibliographies on current topics:**  
[Collagen-based dressings for Chronic Wound Management, January, 2003](http://www.va.gov/vatap/pubs/collagen.pdf)  
<http://www.va.gov/vatap/pubs/collagen.pdf>

[Surgical Treatments for Morbid Obesity, January, 2003](http://www.va.gov/vatap/pubs/obesity.pdf)  
<http://www.va.gov/vatap/pubs/obesity.pdf>

**Recent HTA Reports From Around the Globe: Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia & Prostate Cancer**

**TransUrethral Needle Ablation (TUNA)** for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). February, 2002. Medical Services Advisory Committee (**MSAC**) Assessment report©, Commonwealth of Australia 2002. <http://www.msac.gov.au/pdfs/msac1014.pdf>  
The **INAHTA Brief** for this report is attached.

**ATTRACT**, a Welsh health technology assessment center, was created for clinicians who want to practice evidence-based medicine but don't have the time and/or expertise. **ATTRACT** staff rapidly searches the evidence, appraises and then summarizes it. This link will take you to **ATTRACT's** page summarizing **the latest evidence on: benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH)**.  
[http://www.attract.wales.nhs.uk/question\\_answers.cfm?question\\_id=781](http://www.attract.wales.nhs.uk/question_answers.cfm?question_id=781)

**Medical Management of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia - Are Two Drugs Better Than One?** An editorial by  
E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D. in last week's New England Journal of Medicine, December 18, 2003. <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/349/25/2449>

**Clinical and cost-effectiveness of new and emerging technologies for early localised prostate cancer: a systematic review.** Hummel S, Paisley S, Morgan A, Currie E, Brewer N. 170 pages, Volume 7, number 33, November 2003. This report reviews the clinical and cost-

effectiveness of new and emerging technologies for early, localized prostate cancer. This systematic review evaluated clinical utility and cost-effectiveness by assessing the best available evidence in terms of survival, disease-free survival, quality of life, including complications and adverse events, and treatment acceptability.

<http://www.ncchta.org/execsumm/summ733.htm>

Check out these web sites for news & information you can use:

**EBOC Evidence-Based On Call Database** Each topic covered in this database provides a series of recommendations about issues to consider when caring for patients. It is made up of **CATs**, a Critically Appraised Topic that is a summary of the evidence contained in a medical journal article. For more information about CATs, see **Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine web site**: <http://www.cebm.net/cats.asp>

The **EBOC Guides** provide bullet-point recommendations on the diagnosis and management of a range of on-call conditions. Each guide is divided into sections, such as diagnosis, therapy, prognosis, etc. Each section is made up of a series of recommendations, with information on the levels of evidence <http://www.eboncall.org/CONTENT/levels.html> supporting them. For more info on Guides: <http://www.eboncall.org/JSP/RESOURCE/GUIDE.htm>

**HEN**, the Health Evidence Network, newly developed by the UN World Health Organization, is an information service primarily for public health and health care decision-makers in the WHO European Region. It comprises two services:

**responses to questions to support the decision-making process;**

[http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/WHO/Progs/HEN/Syntheses/20030820\\_1](http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/WHO/Progs/HEN/Syntheses/20030820_1)

**and easy access to sources of evidence**

[http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/WHO/Progs/HEN/20030602\\_2](http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/WHO/Progs/HEN/20030602_2) such as databases, documents and networks of experts. <http://www.euro.who.int/hen>

Have a technology question? Ask the VA Technology Assessment Program to Assist

To Contact Us:

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