

COMMISSIONING POLICY

Dupuytren's Contracture

April 2011

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SUMMARY

Birmingham & Solihull Commissioning Cluster does not usually fund surgery for Dupuytren's Contracture unless the eligibility criteria for the procedure are met.

1. Background:

An electronic copy of this Commissioning Policy is available on the Cluster's website at the following address:

<https://www.sbpct.nhs.uk/bham-and-solihull-cluster/individual-funding-requests.aspx>

Dupuytren's contracture is a fairly common condition that causes one or more fingers to bend into the palm of the hand. The condition often occurs in later life, and is most common in men who are aged over 40. Around one in six men over the age of 65 are affected in the UK.

The symptoms of Dupuytren's contracture are often mild and painless and do not require treatment. The condition most often starts with a firm nodule in the skin of the palm and may stay the same for months or years. In some patients, however, it may progress to the next stage in which cords of fibrous tissue form in the palm and run into the fingers or thumb, eventually, pulling them into a permanently flexed position, making it difficult to perform activities of daily living. In about 50% of cases the condition affects both hands, and in rare cases it can also affect the soles and toes of the feet.

Although there is great variation in the rate of progress, it is usually possible to distinguish the more aggressive form of the disease early on. Surgery is the only effective method of treatment for Dupuytren's contracture. However, patients should be advised that probably 40% of people will have a recurrence following surgery: Dupuytren's contracture can return to the same spot on the hand or may reappear somewhere else. Recurrence is more likely in younger patients; if the original contracture was severe; or if there is a strong family history of the condition.

2. Eligibility Criteria:

Treatment is usually considered a treatment of lower clinical value and is not routinely funded unless the patient meets the following criteria:

Moderate to severe disease with:

Treatment for Dupuytren's contracture can be made where patients meet either of the following criteria:

- moderate metacarpo-phalangeal joint contracture (greater than 30 degrees).
- any proximal inter-phalangeal joint contracture.
- First web contracture

3. Evidence Base:

The above eligibility criteria is in line with the BSSH - The British Society for Surgery of the Hand - Evidence for Surgical Treatment Dupuytren's Disease,

http://www.bssh.ac.uk/education/guidelines/dd_guidelines.pdf

4. Implementation:

Emergency care patients and patients with suspected cancer are excluded. No request for treatment in these circumstances is required but the provider will be expected to demonstrate the clinical need as part of the payment verification process. This will be undertaken on the Cluster's behalf by HCS.

The agreed implementation process defined within the acute services contract for your trust should be followed.

5. Procedures Covered by the Policy:

Primary Operative Procedure	Primary Operative Procedure Description
T521	Palmar fasciectomy