

UK NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE

Population Screening for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)

13th November 2008

Aim

1. To agree the UK National Screening Committee's (UK NSC) formal policy position on population screening for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM).

Background

2. The UK NSC discussed a review undertaken by the Peninsula Medical School, Universities of Exeter and Plymouth to consider the extent to which existing evidence supported the implementation of a population screening programme for HCM.
3. Members supported the reports recommendations that:-
 - Population based screening should not be instituted outside the context of carefully designed research projects as there is insufficient evidence to support it.
 - Pre-participation screening of athletes for HCM or other causes of sudden cardiac death should not be instituted at present.
 - The UK NSC / National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) should consider commissioning further research into the value of screening competitive athletes for the causes of sudden cardiac death.
4. The report has now been finalised and is attached
5. The UK NSC is asked to agree the policy position on screening for HCM as follows:

Screening should not be offered. Pre-participation screening of athletes for HCM or other causes of sudden cardiac death should not be instituted at present.

Evidence: Population Screening for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy – A review of the literature – Peninsula Medical School, Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, Julian Elston, Ken Stein, Tiffany Moxham, 2008