

# NEW HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS AS NICE BACKS INNOVATIVE TREATMENT

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EDAP TMS, developer of Ablatherm, the most advanced and clinically proven choice for HIFU treatment, today welcomed the publication of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) recent guidelines supporting the use of HIFU for the treatment of localized prostate cancer. 27,000 men in the UK are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year, and 10,000 die from the disease.

HIFU is an innovative treatment for prostate cancer which applies high-intensity focused ultrasound to heat and destroy cancerous prostatic tissue. It significantly broadens the range of treatment options for patients with localized prostate cancers, offering an alternative therapy for the patients. It is particularly suited to patients who are not candidates for surgery or those for whom radiotherapy treatment has failed. In contrast to surgery, it requires only a short period of hospitalisation and has a low complication rate. Unlike radiation, HIFU treatment can also be safely repeated if necessary.

HIFU has established strong clinical credentials, with 7,000 Ablatherm treatments performed to date worldwide (in the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Russia and Switzerland). It is currently seeking approval by the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA). In the UK, Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport was the first institution in the country to use HIFU for the treatment of prostate cancer. It has been treating patients for over a year, as part of a clinical pilot trial, with very encouraging outcome.

Stephen Brown, Consultant Urologist at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport, commented: "In Europe there is increasing experience with many new centres coming on line and large numbers of patients being treated. When we started a year ago we wanted to embark on a UK study to establish whether it is as good as the Europeans are claiming. Results so far are very encouraging. Patients seem very happy with the treatment, but it's still very early days."

Hugues de Bantel, Chief Executive Officer of EDAP TMS, commented: "We very much welcome these supportive guidelines from NICE. They provide a positive springboard for our continuing efforts to educate both clinicians and patients in the UK about the benefits of HIFU with Ablatherm treatment options. Ablatherm is now officially recognized in the U.K. "

In addition, EDAP are supporting the recent launch of a HIFU 'club' which took place at the European Association of Urology (EAU) 20th Congress in Istanbul earlier this month. The club, made up of leading European urologists from the UK, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and France, will serve as a forum for current HIFU users to exchange views and discuss ways of optimizing treatment outcomes. Mr. Stephen Brown, consultant urologist at Stepping Hill Hospital, is one of the club's founding members.

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