

Cooksey review – comments from Deltex Medical

1. Introduction

Deltex Medical is a small innovative British health technology company. Since 1989 it has become the world leader in the technique of oesophageal Doppler monitoring ('ODM'). Since then it has raised and spent over £38 million. In 2005 it recorded record sales of £3.0 million and losses reduced to £1.3 million.

Level 1 Grade A scientific evidence proves that Deltex Medical's CardioQ ODM product, used to optimise circulating blood volume in patients undergoing major surgery or in critical care, reduces post-operative complications by over 50%. This clinical benefit translates into an economic benefit as hospital lengths of stay for patients undergoing moderate & major surgery are, on average reduced by 25% or more (i.e. three days). The scientific evidence is backed up by real world audits in NHS hospitals.

Deltex Medical's experience of research and development in the UK, together with the simply staggering barriers to new technology adoption in the NHS make it a perfect case study for all that is wrong with the historic and current system. Put at its most basic, hospitals that do not use Deltex Medical's technology (or, where applicable, alternative technologies) are killing many thousands of patients a year and wasting hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money doing so. Eleven years after the first peer reviewed randomised controlled trial was published in a reputable peer reviewed journal, only two percent of patients who would benefit from the technology actually do benefit.

Deltex Medical's directors will be pleased to meet Sir David Cooksey to go through their experiences in detail. This note only addresses Deltex Medical's experience of one Government funded study using its technology.

2. Worthing randomised controlled trial

A copy of the paper from the British Journal of Anaesthesia is attached. The study was funded by a grant from the NHS R&D directorate. Its results are entirely consistent with those of each of the other seven similar peer reviewed randomised controlled clinical trials using Deltex Medical's technology.

The trial demonstrates statistically significant reductions in both complications and lengths of stay.

Its results were first presented in September 2004 at a major clinical meeting. Pilot results were known two years earlier.

Absolutely no action has been taken by the NHS to action the results of this trial. In over two years, Deltex Medical has been unable to garner the slightest reaction to the study from any NHS or Department of Health body.

All around the NHS, business cases to implement evidence based medicine in the form of ODM are either being rejected or scaled down to the point of meaninglessness.

The trial therefore appears a total waste of £44,000 of taxpayers' money. On the other hand, independent estimates of the cost of failure to implement its results range from £350 million a year to over £1 billion.

This is symptomatic of a national disgrace – poor care combined with waste on an unimaginable scale.

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