

**UK National<br>Screening Committee** 

# **Newborn Screening for Mucopolysaccharidosis Type I**

External review against programme appraisal criteria for the UK National Screening Committee

Version: FINAL

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Date: October 2019

**The UK National Screening Committee secretariat is hosted by Public Health England.**

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The UK NSC advises ministers and the NHS in the 4 UK countries about all aspects of population screening and supports implementation of screening programmes. Conditions are reviewed against evidence review criteria according to the UK NSC's evidence review process.

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Published April 2020

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## Plain English summary

This review looked at screening in newborn babies for a rare genetic disorder called MPS I (mucopolysaccharidosis type I).

People with MPS I have a faulty version of an enzyme called alpha-L-iduronidase. This enzyme breaks down certain sugars in the body. When the enzyme does not work as it should (like in people with MPS I), these sugars can build up. This causes problems with children's physical and mental development.

Hurler syndrome is the more severe form of MPS I. Hurler-Scheie and Scheie syndromes are the less severe forms. Symptoms of Hurler syndrome often appear at around 6 months of age. Symptoms of Hurler-Scheie and Scheie syndromes develop later in childhood, typically between 3 and 10 years of age. MPS I worsens over time. It can lead to organ damage and early death.

Newborn screening might find babies with MPS I before symptoms appear. The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) last looked at the evidence for newborn screening for MPS I in 2014. The review found that there was not enough evidence to recommend a screening programme.

This current evidence summary updates the previous UK NSC review. It looks at all new evidence published since 2014. The focus of this review is to see:

- if current tests can accurately find babies with MPS I
- if early treatment is better for children with MPS I than later treatment, after symptoms appear

This review does not recommend screening for MPS I in newborn babies. This is because there is still not enough evidence:

- that screening newborn blood samples can accurately find MPS I
- that early treatment following screening will provide benefit to the baby or child  $\bullet$

## Executive summary

### Purpose of the review

This review aimed to assess whether there have been significant developments in the evidence base since the last NSC review of newborn screening for mucopolysaccharidosis type I (MPS I). The purpose of this evidence synthesis was to assess whether the current UK NSC recommendation, not to implement screening for MPS I, should be reconsidered.

## **Background**

MPS I is a rare, genetic lysosomal storage disorder caused by an autosomal recessive mutation in the α-L-iduronidase (*IDUA)* gene, leading to a deficiency of the IDUA enzyme responsible for degradation of the glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) heparan sulphate and dermatan sulphate. Traditionally, MPS I has been classified into 3 clinical phenotypes: Hurler syndrome (most severe), Hurler-Scheie syndrome, and Scheie syndrome (least severe).

Hurler syndrome patients appear normal at birth, and initially present with non-specific symptoms such as umbilical or inguinal hernia that are then typically followed by progressive symptoms including skeletal dysplasia, intellectual disability, hepatic disease, cardiorespiratory and central nervous system deterioration, and hearing loss. If left untreated, Hurler syndrome patients are unlikely to survive beyond 10 years of age. Symptoms are usually less severe for Hurler-Scheie and Scheie patients; although mild or no cognitive impairment is experienced, life expectancy can still be substantially reduced. Advancements to available treatment options such as haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) and enzyme replacement therapy (ERT) allow patients to experience improvements in these clinical symptoms.

Globally, the median age at diagnosis for MPS I patients is reported to be between 1 and 5 years of age, with UK patients diagnosed around 5 years of age. While early diagnosis is considered to be important to allow for early treatment, particularly for patients with Hurler syndrome, this can be difficult as the first clinical symptoms are unspecific. Published guidelines are relatively consistent on a proposed diagnostic algorithm that captures the stages of analytical testing necessary to confirm an MPS I diagnosis in newborns who have screened positive for MPS I. The stages typically include measurement of leukocyte IDUA enzyme activity followed by gene *IDUA* molecular analysis and urinary GAG testing. The suggested algorithm also reflects the recommended pathways for MPS I treatment or monitoring, which depend on diagnostic status.

Nevertheless, the last UK NSC review reported that the impact of early initiation of treatment is yet to be determined, and it is unclear whether a newborn MPS I screening programme would result in clinical benefits for MPS I patients.

## Focus of the review

This review aimed to evaluate whether the evidence base has developed substantially and a screening programme for MPS I has become viable since the previous UK NSC review was conducted in 2014. Specifically, new evidence was collected to answer the following 2 questions:

- What is the accuracy of commercially available screening tests in dried blood spots (DBS) to detect MPS I? (criterion 4)
- Does early initiation of treatment with HSCT and/or ERT following screening provide better outcomes compared to usual clinical care? (criterion 9)

#### Recommendation under review

The UK NSC has previously considered evidence for screening for MPS I in 2015. Based on evidence identified by the literature review conducted in 2014, screening for MPS I in newborns in the UK was not recommended. The review concluded that the evidence base was limited in volume, quality and consistency regarding the performance of available testing strategies for newborn screening, and any potential benefit of early treatment following screen detection (or an optimum age for treatment initiation).

## Findings and gaps in the evidence of this review

Seventeen publications were extracted and included in the evidence synthesis. A summary of question level results is presented below.

*Criterion 4 – 'There should be a simple, safe, precise and validated screening test.'* 

Only 4 studies were published since the previous review (2014). Based on the evidence assessed by this review, there is limited evidence relating to the accuracy of newborn DBS screening tests for MPS I. Three studies measured IDUA enzymatic activity by tandem mass spectrometry, and one study evaluated a fluorometric assay in combination with a pattern recognition software. However, there was substantial heterogeneity in screening test methods and lack of reported measures of test performance, with only positive predictive values (PPVs) reported. Based on these findings, criterion 4 is not met.

*Criterion 9 – 'There should be an effective intervention for patients identified through screening, with evidence that intervention at a pre-symptomatic phase leads to better outcomes for the screened individual compared with usual care. Evidence relating to wider benefits of screening, for example those relating to family members, should be taken into account where available. However, where there is no prospect of benefit for the individual screened then the screening programme should not be further considered.'* 

Thirteen studies evaluated the relationship between age at initiation of HSCT or ERT and clinical outcomes for MPS I patients. Although some indicated a statistically significant association, the effect was small, and it is therefore unclear whether early diagnosis of MPS I would result in a clinically significant improvement in patients' symptoms. Other studies did not demonstrate any effect of age of treatment initiation on clinical outcomes. The majority of studies focussed solely on Hurler patients, while the effect of early initiation of treatment for patients with attenuated MPS I was rarely investigated. The median age of treatment in these studies was also more aligned with clinical detection of MPS I rather than earlier initiation of treatment following detection through screening. Overall, there is insufficient evidence to determine whether early initiation of HSCT or ERT improves clinical outcomes for MPS I patients. Based on these findings, criterion 9 is not met.

#### Evidence uncertainties

*Criterion 4 –* Full reporting of test accuracy for assessment of IDUA activity by tandem mass spectrometry or fluorometric assay was lacking in all studies; only PPV was reported without any measure of variance, diminishing confidence in the results. In all newborn screening programmes identified, only screen-positive samples were sent for confirmatory testing. Though further evidence on the sensitivity and specificity of tests to detect MPS I would be ideal, it is acknowledged that assessment of these test accuracy parameters is difficult to achieve in studies of screening for rare diseases. Finding mechanisms to address that is important, particularly given the potential for identification of carriers and pseudodeficiency in MPS I screening. Further screening studies with improved methodological consistency (in terms of index test cut-offs, repeat testing and the reference standard used) may be achievable and would allow for an informative evaluation of a putative test to be used in screening for MPS I in newborn babies.

*Criterion 9 –* Although there may be clinical benefits in initiating HSCT early in patients diagnosed with Hurler syndrome, the evidence was inconsistent in terms of the treatment outcomes which were investigated, results across similar outcomes, and the age by which early and late treatment groups were defined. In some cases, age was only analysed as a

covariate of the outcome measured, further limiting the conclusions that can be drawn. The evidence is also limited by differences in study design, methodology, and small sample sizes across the included studies. Further consistency in study methodology and investigated treatment outcomes in future research may mitigate some of the current issues present within the current evidence base that are inherent in rare diseases such as small sample sizes.

## Recommendations on screening

Based on the overall synthesis of evidence against the UK NSC criteria, the evidence remains insufficient in volume and quality to reconsider the current recommendation of not screening for MPS I.

There was insufficient evidence to determine whether newborn DBS screening using tandem mass spectrometry or fluorometric assays is sufficiently accurate to identify all patients with MPS I. While there is some evidence from studies at high risk of bias that early HSCT may improve treatment outcomes in patients with Hurler syndrome specifically, ultimately no clear conclusions can be drawn on whether this provides any benefit for affected cases and their families.

#### Limitations

This review only included peer-reviewed journal publications in the English language. Given that this is an accepted methodological adjustment for a rapid review and this review was focusing on evidence relevant to the UK setting, these limitations should not have led to the exclusion of any pivotal studies. The titles, abstracts and full texts were screened by one reviewer, with a second reviewer verifying all included, 10% of excluded decisions and any articles where there was uncertainty about their inclusion. For question 1, publications were excluded if they only presented data that would require a calculation of test accuracy parameters that were otherwise not reported. This was taken as a pragmatic approach and was unlikely to result in key screening studies being missed.

## Introduction and approach

## **Background**

Mucopolysaccharidosis type I (MPS I) is a rare, genetic lysosomal storage disorder (LSD) caused by an autosomal recessive mutation in the α-L-iduronidase (*IDUA)* gene, leading to a deficiency of the IDUA enzyme responsible for degradation of glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), heparan sulphate (HS) and dermatan sulphate (DS). Subsequent accumulation of GAGs results in progressive multi-organ deterioration, symptoms of which can vary widely in terms of the timing of presentation and severity, with the most severe cases resulting in early death.<sup>1-3</sup>

Traditionally, MPS I has been classified into 3 clinical phenotypes: Hurler syndrome, Scheie syndrome, and Hurler-Scheie syndrome. Hurler syndrome is the most severe form of MPS I, causing symptoms to appear early in life and progress rapidly in severity. By contrast, Scheie syndrome manifests later and displays slower disease progression, with Hurler-Scheie patients being mostly in between the other 2 in terms of disease onset and severity. Nevertheless, due to biochemical and closer clinical overlap in phenotype, the Scheie and Hurler-Scheie subtypes are now more commonly referred to as 'attenuated MPS I'.<sup>4</sup>

Infants with Hurler syndrome will appear normal at birth and initially present with nonspecific symptoms, such as umbilical or inguinal hernia and upper respiratory-tract infections, at a median age of 6 months (Figure 1). $^{3, 4}$  Gibbus deformity and coarsening of facial features may also develop. These are typically followed by progressive skeletal dysplasia, intellectual disability, hepatic disease, cardiorespiratory and central nervous system deterioration and hearing loss, with linear growth also decreasing.<sup>3,4</sup> If left untreated, Hurler syndrome patients are unlikely to survive beyond 10 years of age.<sup>3, 4</sup>

For patients with attenuated MPS I, the onset of symptoms is generally after infancy, between 3 and 10 years of age (Figure 1). $3, 4$  Patients with Scheie syndrome typically have normal cognitive functioning and survive into adulthood, although more than 50% experience cardiac valve abnormalities, hernias, corneal clouding, and hepatomegaly.<sup>3</sup> Hurler-Scheie patients present with an intermediate phenotype, showing mild or no cognitive impairment, but exhibiting symptoms that ultimately reduce life expectancy to less than 40 years of age. $3$ 

#### **Figure 1. Timeline for symptom onset among Hurler, Hurler-Scheie and Scheie patients based on MPS I registry data**



Reproduced from the previous UK NSC (2015) report on newborn screening for mucopolysaccharidosis I.<sup>5</sup> This timeline was based on MPS registry data.<sup>3, 6-8</sup>

Advancements to available treatment options such as haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT; also known as bone and marrow transplantation [BMT]) and enzyme replacement therapy (ERT), allow patients to experience improvements in these clinical symptoms.3

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) wishes to determine whether there have been significant developments in the evidence base on how earlier diagnosis and subsequent initiation of treatment may be beneficial for MPS I patients, and if a UK national screening programme may now be a viable option. In addition to this, the UK NSC is interested in contextualising this review by investigating the usual age of clinical diagnosis for MPS I and whether a diagnostic pathway has been established for pre-symptomatic or screen detected MPS I patients.

### Usual age of clinical diagnosis for MPS I

The age at which MPS I is diagnosed can vary substantially, both across and within the 3 generally recognised forms of MPS I: Hurler, Scheie, and Hurler-Scheie syndromes. While early diagnosis is considered to be important to allow for early treatment, particularly for patients with Hurler syndrome, this can be difficult as the first clinical symptoms are unspecific.<sup>9, 10</sup> It is worthwhile noting that there is significant heterogeneity in the age when MPS I is first diagnosed among individual patients, with some reports differing by up to 54.1 years,<sup>6</sup> likely indicating that for many patients, establishing a diagnosis is difficult. Globally, reported median age at diagnosis for MPS I (when not further differentiated into subtypes) varies between 1 and 5 years of age, with UK patients diagnosed closer to the top of this range (5 years of age).<sup>11</sup> However, when different clinical phenotypes are considered, the age at diagnosis appears to vary significantly; for patients with the more severe Hurler phenotype it is substantially lower, with median age at diagnosis across the world ranging from 0.8 to 1.0 year of age, but is between 7.0 and 9.4 years for those with the attenuated Scheie phenotype. Unsurprisingly, the median age at diagnosis in Hurler-Scheie patients falls in between these values, ranging from 3.8 to 4.0 years of age.

Data on how geographical areas compare as to the age at diagnosis is scarce; based on what is available, the pattern that attenuated MPS I is diagnosed later than Hurler syndrome is similar across different regions of the world. $3$  There is, however, variation between geographical areas, with the age of diagnosis for Hurler and Hurler-Scheie syndromes being lower in Europe than in other regions, and, conversely, Scheie patients having the lowest age of diagnosis in North America.<sup>3</sup> For the UK specifically, there is limited data on age at diagnosis; available reports suggest that the median age at diagnosis for Scheie patients (7 years of age) is lower in the UK than other European countries, America or Asia, whilst for Hurler-Scheie patients the median age at diagnosis in the UK (4 years of age) is slightly higher than other European countries, though lower than in other areas of the world.11 Mean age of Hurler syndrome diagnosis appears to be around 9 months in the UK, which is comparable to the global averages of 0.8 to 1.0 years.<sup>12</sup>

#### Diagnostic pathway for pre-symptomatic (e.g. cascade testing of siblings) or screen detected MPS I

As MPS I is a genetic condition, siblings of a diagnosed child could also be affected.<sup>13</sup> Case study reports have demonstrated that MPS I can be diagnosed early after birth when the test for the disorder was prompted by the diagnosis of a sibling. For example, MPS I cases detected via a sibling cascade have been reported to have been diagnosed and classified as attenuated and Hurler syndrome forms as early as 3 and 10 days old, respectively. This

allowed for initiation of treatment before symptoms arose in both cases (at 5 months of age for attenuated MPS I and at 2 months of age for Hurler syndrome).<sup>14, 15</sup>

Although sibling-cascade or carrier testing has been shown to be useful for detecting cases of MPS I at an earlier age,<sup>13</sup> there are currently no agreed national guidelines for cascade testing of siblings. Nevertheless, when a newly diagnosed MPS I patient is evaluated for treatment, *IDUA* sequencing of at-risk family members has been suggested.16

MPS I can be diagnosed prenatally by chronic villus sampling or amniocentesis, using relevant biochemical and molecular tests, however no formal recommendations have been made regarding prenatal testing.<sup>17</sup> By contrast, several guidelines and recommendations have been published on the diagnostic pathway for patients who have screened positive for MPS I in the newborn period.<sup>16, 18</sup> These guidelines are relatively consistent on a proposed diagnostic algorithm that captures the stages of analytical testing necessary to confirm an MPS I diagnosis (adapted in Figure 2). The suggested algorithm also reflects the recommended pathways for MPS I treatment or monitoring, which depend on diagnostic status.

Even in individuals known to have MPS I, prediction of clinical phenotype can be difficult. It is generally agreed that infants with a positive MPS I screening test result should undergo follow-up testing for plasma, peripheral blood leukocyte or skin fibroblast IDUA enzyme activity, to confirm the test result and classify the diagnosis as the expected clinical severity. No residual enzyme activity will typically be found in severe MPS I, whilst patients with the attenuated Scheie phenotype will usually present with <0.1% of the normal level of activity.11 However, phenotypes cannot be reliably differentiated based on IDUA enzyme assay only, as reduced *in vitro* IDUA activity can also be observed with benign variants that do not cause symptoms in the individual (referred to as pseudodeficiency).18 Kingma 2013, a retrospective analysis, reported on a diagnostic algorithm involving enzymatic analysis of IDUA activity in fibroblasts that allowed for differentiation between Hurler syndrome and attenuated MPS I in a sample of 30 affected newborns with 82% sensitivity and 100% specificity, the performance of this algorithm is yet to be validated in a prospective cohort.<sup>2</sup> As there is not a validated and reliable method to classify MPS I diagnoses, and enzymatic activity alone is insufficient, infants with low IDUA activity  $\left\langle \langle 1\% \rangle \right\rangle$  of the normal)<sup>19</sup> should be referred to a metabolic centre for molecular analysis. Correlations between recurrent pathogenic mutations and phenotype of MPS I have been identified, which could, in some cases, allow for prediction of phenotype before symptoms arise. For example, presymptomatic newborns with IDUA deficiency and known severe *IDUA* mutations (e.g. nonsense common W402X and Q70X, missense A327P and G51D) on both alleles, have been reported to develop severe MPS I due to lack of a functional enzyme.20 *IDUA* variant analyses indicate that pre-symptomatic newborns with attenuated disease have at least 1

allele containing a missense or splice site variant (e.g. R89W and L492P). However, the phenotype of MPS I cannot be predicted for all genotypes, such as for less common or unique mutations in individuals and families.18

When the pathogenic variants can be used to predict disease phenotype, the treatment pathways are clearly described, and the recommendation is that these should be initiated promptly; if 2 pathogenic alleles associated with severe disease have been identified and urinary GAG (uGAG) levels are elevated, current recommendations suggest that the patient should be referred for HSCT as soon as possible (Figure 2). If the pathogenic variants identified indicate attenuated disease, then ERT should be initiated (Figure 2).<sup>18, 20</sup> Nonetheless, there are circumstances where disease severity cannot be predicted, due to the presence of variants of unknown significance (VUS). In these cases, ongoing monitoring through physical examinations, clinical evaluations and biochemical analyses may help to anticipate disease severity in order to determine appropriate treatment pathways (Figure 2). It is recommended that patients should be assessed for facial dysmorphisms, joint range of motion, murmurs, liver and spleen enlargement, corneal clouding, hernias, and scoliosis/kyphosis; while these symptoms may not arise until later in childhood,<sup>2</sup> awareness and monitoring for clinical presentation may facilitate the diagnostic process. Clinical evaluations including radiographs, echocardiography, neurocognitive testing, ophthalmologic assessment and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), are also recommended. Findings of gibbus deformity, dysostosis multiplex, corneal/cardiac valve involvement, and respiratory distress indicate a severe disease phenotype. If the phenotype of MPS I cannot be predicted, these assessments are recommended at 3 and 6 months of age, and if inconclusive they should be continued on an ongoing basis.<sup>18</sup> These ongoing evaluations aim to help predict disease phenotype and determine the appropriate treatment regimen according to the diagnostic algorithm (Figure 2). However, if conclusive classification of disease subtype cannot be achieved by at least 6 months of age, it is suggested that ERT should be started regardless. Nevertheless, it is important to consider that any symptoms reflective of severe MPS I may be masked if ERT is started early, which may result in delayed initiation of HSCT for these patients, demonstrating the complexity of therapeutic decision-making in infants with MPS I.<sup>18</sup> These issues highlight the importance of obtaining a method that can reliably distinguish MPS I patients who will gain optimal benefit from initiating HSCT at an early age from those who will benefit from receiving ERT.2

Although informative, uGAG tests revealing excessive dermatan and heparan sulphate cannot be used to confirm MPS I diagnosis, as elevation of uGAGs is not specific to MPS I.21 Furthermore, although patients with Hurler syndrome typically have higher uGAG levels than those with attenuated disease, the exact threshold that distinguishes these subtypes has not been determined; particularly in newborns for whom the normative uGAG ranges

are relatively large.<sup>18</sup> The importance of uGAG analysis is therefore not well agreed upon, and whilst some suggest it should be the first step in the diagnostic pathway,<sup>11</sup> others recommend performing it once IDUA activity has been confirmed (Figure 2).<sup>16, 18, 22</sup> It is recommended that quantitative and qualitative GAG analyses should be interpreted together for a complete evaluation.23





Adapted from Clarke et al. (2016), Donati et al. (2018) and Wang et al. (2011).<sup>16, 18, 22</sup> \*There is no consensus as to whether uGAG analysis should be performed as the first step in the diagnostic pathway after a positive NBS, or alongside molecular analysis following leukocyte IDUA enzyme activity analysis. DBS: dried blood spot; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IDUA: alpha-L-iduronidase; MPS I: mucopolysaccharidosis type I; NBS: newborn screening; uGAG: urine glycosaminoglycan; VUS: variant of unknown significance.

#### Current global landscape of newborn screening

Several countries have already initiated newborn screening (NBS) programmes for MPS I to facilitate early diagnosis of affected newborns. In the US, the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children recommend that MPS I is included in the newborn screening panel.<sup>24</sup> However, whilst each state must offer screening for every infant, the choice to include MPS I depends on the individual state's public health department; pilot studies have so far been initiated in, for example, Illinois, Washington, and Missouri.<sup>25-27</sup> Other countries including Taiwan, Brazil and in the Tuscany and Umbria regions of Italy, are also conducting pilot studies for MPS I screening programmes.<sup>28-30</sup> Furthermore, in the North-East region of Italy and in Mexico, MPS I has been included in the NBS programmes for detecting several LSDs in neonates.31, 32

#### Current policy context and previous reviews

The UK NSC has considered evidence in support of screening for MPS I in 2015.<sup>5</sup> A literature review was conducted in 2014 and it concluded that the evidence base was limited in volume, quality, and consistency. As such, screening for MPS I in newborns in the UK is currently not recommended.

#### **Objectives**

This review aims to assess whether there have been significant developments in the evidence base since the previous review was conducted in 2014, and if sufficient support exists for a screening programme for MPS I in newborn infants. The review appraised evidence on the questions in Table 1, which each relate to the criteria set out by the UK NSC for assessing the suitability of a screening programme.





 $\texttt{a}$  Two publications included the same medical centres as sources of patients, however, it was not possible to determine whether the patients overlapped. The studies were treated as being on independent cohorts.

## **Methods**

The current review was conducted by Costello Medical, in keeping with the UK National Screening Committee evidence review process. Database searches were conducted on 2 May 2019 to identify studies relevant to the questions detailed in Table 1.

## Eligibility for inclusion in the review

The following review process was followed:

- Each abstract was reviewed against the inclusion/exclusion criteria by one reviewer (Sift 1). Where the applicability of the inclusion criteria was unclear, the article was included at this stage to ensure that all potentially relevant studies were captured. A second independent reviewer provided input in cases of uncertainty and validated all included and 10% of excluded articles. Any disagreements were resolved by discussion until a consensus was met.
- Costello Medical conducted a search for freely available full-text articles required for the full-text review stage (Sift 2) and acquired any additional articles from the Cambridge University Library.
- Each full-text article was then reviewed against the inclusion/exclusion criteria by one reviewer (Sift 2), who determined whether the article was relevant to one or more of the review questions. A second independent reviewer provided input in cases of uncertainty and validated all included and 10% of excluded articles. Any disagreements were resolved by discussion until a consensus was met.

Eligibility criteria for each question are presented in Table 2 (Question 1) and Table 3 (Question 2) below:



#### **Table 2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for question 1 — What is the accuracy of commercially available screening tests in dried blood spots (DBS) to detect MPS I?**



**Abbreviations:** GAG, glycosaminoglycan; IDUA, Iduronidase; MPS I, Mucopolysaccharidosis type I; RCT, randomised controlled trial









**Abbreviations:** ERT, enzyme replacement therapy; HSCT, haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; MPS I, mucopolysaccharidosis Type I

### Appraisal for quality/risk of bias tool

The following tools were used to assess the quality and risk of bias of each study included in the review:

- Diagnostic accuracy studies: Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies (QUADAS-2) tool
- Risk of Bias in Non-Randomised Studies of Interventions (ROBINS-I)

Results of the quality assessments and appraisal of individual studies are presented in Appendix 3.

## Databases/sources searched

The following databases were searched:

- MEDLINE, MEDLINE In-Process, MEDLINE Daily, Epub Ahead of Print
- Embase
- The Cochrane Library, including the following:
	- o Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)
	- o Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)

Searches were conducted in May 2019. Full details of the searches, including the search strategy for each database, are presented in Appendix 1.

## Question level synthesis

Criterion 4 — What is the accuracy of commercially available screening tests in dried blood spots to detect MPS I?

*4: 'There should be a simple, safe, precise and validated screening test.'* 

*Question 1 – What is the accuracy of commercially available screening tests in dried blood spots (DBS) to detect MPS I?* 

The previous (2015) UK NSC review evaluated evidence relating to the clinical value of newborn screening tests for MPS I and identified a limited volume of evidence relating to 2 screening test strategies for assessing IDUA activity (fluorometric enzyme assay and tandem mass spectrometry). Studies were of poor quality and measures of test accuracy such as sensitivity, specificity, and likelihood ratios were not reported, limiting the evaluation of the performance and clinical validity of these tests for newborn screening. The 2015 review concluded that further research on the sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values of various MPS I testing strategies was required in order to assess the effectiveness of various screening tests for MPS I.

The aim of this question was to identify and synthesise evidence published since 2014 on test accuracy parameters of screening tests for MPS I in newborn infants in a low-risk or unselected UK population.

## Eligibility for inclusion in the review

This review searched for randomised controlled trials (RCTs), cohort, cross-sectional, and interventional studies with an appropriate screening component, along with systematic literature reviews (SLRs) or meta-analyses (MAs). As limited evidence was identified, casecontrol studies and studies conducted in any country were eligible for inclusion. Studies were eligible if they assessed the performance of an index test used to diagnose MPS I in newborn infants, such as measurement of IDUA activity (by mass spectrometry or enzyme assay) or assays aimed at detecting LSDs including MPS I. The reference standard was IDUA activity measured in leukocytes (blood sample), molecular DNA analysis or urinary GAG quantification. Studies were only included if they directly reported test accuracy parameters; no calculations were performed in this review to obtain such measures. The eligible population were newborn infants younger than 28 days of age; studies that

evaluated screening for MPS I in infants over 28 days of age or older children, adults or pregnant women only were not included.

Full details of the eligibility criteria are presented in Table 2.

### Description of the evidence

A total of 4 publications were included in the review for Criterion 4. No SLRs or MAs which aligned with the scope of this review closely enough to be included in their own right were identified, and no additional relevant articles were identified through hand-searching the reference lists of the identified SLRs. No studies investigating index tests or reference standards other than those specified in the eligibility criteria were identified.

The 4 included studies reported on newborn screening programmes in the US, 25, 35 Italy, 31 and Taiwan.<sup>36</sup> Three studies reported on combined screening for 6 LSDs including MPS I in 43,701 to 55,161 newborns.  $25, 31, 35$  The remaining study reported on a screening programme for MPS I and II, during which 294,196 and 153,032 newborns were tested for MPS I or MPS II respectively.<sup>36</sup> None of the studies reported screening for a specific MPS I phenotype.

Three studies assessed IDUA activity measured by tandem mass spectrometry,  $31, 35, 36$  and 1 study by fluorometric enzymatic assay,25 in newborn DBS as an index screening test for MPS I. Newborn DBS samples were collected between 36 and 58 hours after birth. In 2 studies the time of DBS sample collection was unclear; in Chuang 2018 the age at which confirmatory genetic testing was performed was reported for the 4 newborns ultimately diagnosed with MPS ( between 1.1 months and 4.5 months after birth).<sup>25, 36</sup> In all 4 studies, the screening phase involved 2 or more stages of testing. In the Burlina 2018 screening programme conducted in Italy, a repeat index test was performed using a second newborn DBS sample for those who initially screened positive (cut-off <0.2 MoM μmol/h). Only those newborns who tested positive again, using the same cut-off, received the reference standard for confirmation.<sup>31</sup> Similarly, Chuang 2018 re-tested the original DBS and a second DBS, using the same cut-off for each round of testing.<sup>36</sup> Newborns who consistently tested positive (cut-off <4.0 µmol/L/hour [0.8 percentile]) with triplicate testing were referred for confirmatory testing in the Hopkins 2015 screening study. For 'high-risk' newborns in whom screening results were considered unreliable (e.g. in premature or unwell newborns, or those less than 24 hours old), a repeat screen was automatically required.<sup>25</sup> By contrast, Minter Baerg 2018 used a 'second-tier' test in addition to a repeat screen of IDUA activity in DBS samples – evaluation of dermatan sulphate and heparan sulphate concentrations – before referring newborns for confirmatory testing.<sup>35</sup>

Two studies reported the use of pre-specified cut-offs for classification of a 'positive' or 'negative' index test result for MPS I, determined using samples from healthy patients and clinical cases of MPS  $1.25, 31$  To distinguish newborns at risk (positive test result) or not at risk (negative test result), Minter Baerg 2018 reported a thorough screening process which utilised pattern recognition software (The Collaborative Laboratory Integrated Reports [CLIR] tool). While numerical cut-offs were not explicitly pre-specified, it was reported that the initial index test was set to only classify samples as 'negative' if the 6-plex assay results were 'completely normal' (if markers were within 1–99% percentile of reference range).<sup>35</sup>

Where reported, more than one test was used as the reference standard for MPS I across the 4 newborn screening programmes. For example, a leukocyte assay for β-iduronidase to confirm IDUA activity, and molecular DNA analysis using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for confirmation of genotype, were performed in the newborn screening programme in Taiwan.<sup>36</sup> In the Regional North East Italy screening programme, clinical evaluation, urinary GAG analyses, further IDUA testing and genetic mutational analyses were performed to confirm MPS I and classify the phenotype as Hurler, Scheie or Hurler-Scheie.<sup>31</sup> No other studies reported on the MPS I phenotype despite the use of genetic testing. The diagnostic laboratory tests used to confirm diagnoses were not explicitly reported by Hopkins 2015, however samples that tested positive using the index test were referred to genetic centres for 'evaluation, confirmatory testing and diagnosis'.25

## Discussion of findings

A study-level summary of data extracted from each included publication is presented in Table 5.

#### **Quality assessment**

The quality of the included studies was appraised using an adapted QUADAS-2 checklist (Table 17). A summary of the risk of bias and applicability to the UK setting is presented in Table 4, and the full appraisal is presented in Table 18; Appendix 3.

#### **Table 4. Summary of QUADAS-2 assessments for MPS I screening studies**



#### *Participant selection*

All studies reported on unselective newborn screening programmes and were therefore at low risk of bias. Chuang 2018 reported on a newborn screening programme in Taiwan, limiting applicability to the UK newborn screening population and UK clinical practice.<sup>36</sup> The remaining 3 screening studies were conducted in the US and Italy, where the newborn screening population and clinical practice is considered likely to be comparable to the UK, resulting in low concern about applicability.<sup>25, 31, 35</sup>

#### *Index tests*

In all screening programmes, only newborns who screened positive using the index test were referred for confirmatory testing with the reference standard, which suggests that the index test results were interpreted without the knowledge of the reference standard. Three studies reported the use of pre-specified cut-offs for classification of a 'positive' or 'negative' test result for MPS I, and are therefore at low risk of bias. In the Minter Baerg 2018 study, while the initial index test using the CLIR tool was set to only give a negative test result if the 6-plex assay results were 'completely normal' (markers within 1–99% percentile of reference range),<sup>35</sup> the final cut-off used to identify screen-positive newborns for confirmatory testing was unclear. The CLIR tool was developed to improve screening by tandem mass spectrometry and provide continuous, covariateadjusted, 'moving' percentiles, but as the study did not report which thresholds were used specifically, the study is at an unclear risk of bias.

The North Eastern Italy screening programme collected DBS samples between 36 and 48 hours after birth, which is earlier than DBS sample collection in UK screening programmes (5 to 8 days after birth).<sup>31</sup> Minter Baerg 2018 only reported the time of DBS sample collection for the single newborn diagnosed with MPS I, which was at 58 hours after birth, limiting applicability to newborn DBS screening in the UK for these 2 studies.<sup>31, 35</sup> Time of DBS sample collection was unclear in the Hopkins 2015 and Chuang 2018 screening programmes.<sup>25, 36</sup> It is likely that this was within 72 hours for Chuang 2018, as the samples were collected as part of the Taiwanese screening programme, and therefore aligns with the UK DBS screening. For Hopkins 2015, samples were collected as part of the Missouri routine screening programme for which DBS samples are usually retrieved between 24 and 48 hours after birth, which is substantially earlier than in the UK. However, as the time of sample collection in these 2 studies is not actually reported, the applicability of both studies is unclear. The applicability of these results to UK screening is therefore unclear when timing of DBS sample collection for newborn screening is considered.

#### *Reference standard*

Only one study was at high risk of bias for this domain.<sup>25</sup> It was unclear whether the reference standard results were interpreted without knowledge of the index test results; as all 4 screening studies sent screen-positive samples for confirmatory testing, it is likely that this is standard procedure in diagnostic testing for MPS I, and therefore the laboratory staff were likely aware of the positive screening result. Since MPS I was confirmed using genetic analyses, this is not expected to have a large impact on the risk of bias.

While all reference standards are considered to classify the MPS I diagnosis correctly, only 1 screening study reported the use of a reference standard that diagnosed cases and the predicted phenotype, as well as cases of pseudodeficiency and carriers.<sup>31</sup> Two other studies distinguished confirmed cases from carriers and pseudodeficiency, but did not distinguish between the phenotypes of MPS I (for example by mutational analysis or clinical follow-up), leading to concern about applicability.<sup>25, 35</sup> By contrast, Chuang 2018 did not report on pseudodeficiency or carriers for MPS I, but did report that the 4 newborns diagnosed with MPS I were presumed to be affected by attenuated forms, due to being asymptomatic at follow-up (clinical evaluations were performed every 6 months following screening).

#### *Participant flow*

All studies were at high risk of bias for the participant flow domain; only newborns who screened positive using the initial index test were re-tested and received the reference standard. Repeat testing and/or use of a second-tier index test was utilised to validate the first test result and to exclude any false-positive cases. It is possible that false-negative cases, which could arise in newborns with milder forms of MPS I or from laboratory errors, may have been omitted if they were not selected for repeat testing at the initial screening stage. All or most of the screen-positive patients were included in the analysis in all 4 studies. 25, 31, 35, 36

In the Hopkins 2015 study, it was unclear if patients received the same reference standard due to poor reporting of confirmatory testing, as it was only mentioned that newborn samples were sent to 'genetic referral centres'.<sup>25</sup> This study is therefore at high risk of bias.

#### **Results**

The results of screening test accuracy for MPS I are presented in Table 5. Full study details are provided in Appendix 3.



#### **Table 5. Measures of test accuracy and test results for screening for MPS I**

**Abbreviations:** DBS, dried blood spot; GAG, glycosaminoglycans; IDUA, α-L-iduronidase; FPR, false positive rate; NR, not reported; PPV, positive predictive value

<sup>a</sup> Reported as 6-month FPR

All screening programmes detected at least one newborn with confirmed MPS I. Only one study reported on the predicted phenotype of MPS I based on the screening results; Burlina 2018 confirmed the diagnosis of the single detected case of MPS I according to high levels of urinary GAGs and a mutation that had previously been reported in a patient with Hurler-Scheie syndrome (p.Pro533Arg).<sup>31</sup> While the other screening studies reported the use of genetic analyses as part of the confirmatory process, none reported a predicted phenotype based on specific mutations.

Two screening studies reported on the number of newborns with a pseudodeficiency, of which there was a relatively high incidence, with 5/44,411 newborns identified in the Burlina 2018 screening study and 7/43,701 newborns in the Hopkins 2015 study. This was diagnosed upon the presence of low enzymatic IDUA activity despite normal levels of metabolites, and further confirmed by the presence of pseudodeficiency alleles using molecular DNA analysis in the Burlina 2018 study, $31$  however the methods of confirming MPS I diagnoses were not adequately reported for Hopkins 2015.<sup>25</sup> In contrast, Minter-Baerg 2018 included pseudodeficiency under 'false-positive' cases along with heterozygous carriers.35 For the single false-positive case identified, it was not specified whether this was a carrier or pseudodeficiency.

Regarding the evaluation of screening test performance, all included studies only reported results for screen-positive newborns, therefore measures of sensitivity or specificity were not reported and cannot be calculated. The only measure of test accuracy that was reported by the eligible studies was the PPV, which reflects the probability that newborns with a positive screening test truly have MPS I. However, as predictive values depend on the prevalence of the disease in the study population, it is difficult to draw comparisons across different studies. For the 3 studies which evaluated tandem mass spectrometry as a screening test for MPS I, the PPV were 7.7%, 26.7% and 50.0%, whilst the fluorometric enzyme assay achieved a PPV of 11%. It is difficult to evaluate the clinical validity of a screening test based on PPV alone, as for rare diseases such as MPS I, the PPV will be low even if the test has high sensitivity and specificity. This is further complicated by the use of different thresholds for classification of a screen-positive result, in addition to differences in the approach taken for repeat screening and use of second-tier tests with additional markers (such as with lysophosphatidylcholines and GAGs in the Minter-Baerg 2018 study) before confirmation with the reference standard.

#### Summary of Findings Relevant to Criterion 4: Not met

**Quantity**: This review identified a very limited volume of evidence on newborn screening for MPS I; only 4 studies reporting on unique newborn screening programmes were eligible for inclusion. All studies screened a large number of newborn samples (ranging from 44,411 to 294,196).

**Quality:** All 4 studies were of a prospective study design in large, unselected cohorts of newborn samples, and were therefore at a reduced risk of selection bias and confounding. Overall, the quality of the included studies was low; while there was a low risk of selection bias in all studies, all were at a high risk of bias in participant flow, due to the diagnosis only being confirmed in newborns who screened positive.

**Applicability**: All included screening studies were conducted in large, unselected newborn populations, and 3 studies were conducted in high-income countries that are considered to be reflective of the UK clinical setting. However, where reported, newborn DBS samples were collected earlier (38–58 hours after birth) than is standard in UK DBS screening (5 to 8 days after birth), limiting the applicability of results to a potential UK newborn screening programme.

**Consistency:** All studies screened for MPS I based on IDUA enzymatic activity, measured by tandem mass spectrometry in 3 studies, and using a fluorometric assay in combination with a pattern recognition software in the remaining study. However, there was substantial heterogeneity in the cut-offs used for classification of a screen-positive test result, the use of second-tier index tests to further rule out false-positive cases, and in the method of confirming screen-positive results. The only measure of test accuracy reported by each study was PPV, which cannot be easily compared across studies due to the influence of individual study populations. These factors together critically limit comparison of test accuracy across the different studies due to the influence of prevalence within each study population.

**Conclusions:** Based on the evidence assessed by this review, there is limited evidence to support that newborn DBS screening tests for MPS I are sufficiently accurate for use in a national screening programme. A small number of screening studies were identified (N=4), in which only screen-positive cases received the reference standard, increasing the risk of bias and limiting the reporting of test accuracy parameters. In conclusion, due to a limited volume of evidence, with substantial heterogeneity in screening test methods and lack of reported measures of test performance, a screening programme using these tests cannot be recommended based on the current evidence. This conclusion is consistent with that of the previous UK NSC review (2015), which also found a very limited evidence base with only 3 relevant studies included. Though further evidence on the sensitivity and specificity of tests to detect MPS I would be ideal, it is acknowledged that assessment of these test accuracy parameters is difficult to achieve in studies of screening for rare diseases. Finding mechanisms to address that is important, particularly

given the potential for identification of carriers and pseudodeficiency in MPS I screening. Further screening studies with improved methodological consistency (in terms of index test cut-offs, repeat testing and the reference standard used) may be achievable and would allow for an informative evaluation of a putative test to be used in screening for MPS I in newborn babies.

## Criterion 9 — Does early initiation of treatment with HSCT and/or ERT following screening provide better outcomes compared to usual clinical care?

*9: 'There should be an effective intervention for patients identified through screening, with evidence that intervention at a pre-symptomatic phase leads to better outcomes for the screened individual compared with usual care. Evidence relating to wider benefits of screening, for example those relating to family members, should be taken into account where available. However, where there is no prospect of benefit for the individual screened then the screening programme should not be further considered.'* 

#### Question 2 ‒ *Does early initiation of treatment with HSCT and/or ERT following screening provide better outcomes compared to usual clinical care?*

The 2015 UK NSC review examined the evidence related to a) treatment outcomes in screen-detected patients or patients identified pre-symptomatically through cascade testing, compared to patients detected clinically, or b) the impact of early compared with late treatment or age at treatment initiation on treatment outcomes. No studies comparing outcomes in screen- versus clinically-detected MPS I patients were identified, and 6 studies that examined early versus late treatment were identified. The conclusion of the review was that insufficient evidence, in terms of quantity and quality, was identified in the literature to draw conclusions on the impact of age at treatment on outcomes in MPS I patients.

The aim of this question was to identify and synthesise evidence published since 2014 on treatment outcomes for early initiation of treatment with HSCT and/or ERT following screening (i.e. universal newborn screening and cascade testing of siblings) compared to late initiation of treatment or usual clinical care. Studies in which the effect of age at treatment initiation on treatment outcome was explored were also eligible for inclusion.

## Eligibility for inclusion in the review

This review searched for RCTs, cohort studies and interventional studies, or SLRs or MAs of these, reporting on HSCT and/or ERT in MPS I patients. Due to the small volume of evidence identified, case-control studies were also eligible for inclusion. Studies were eligible if they evaluated treatment outcomes of HSCT and/or ERT initiated early compared to late initiation or usual clinical care in patients with MPS I, or if the effect of age at treatment initiation on treatment outcome was explored in the analyses. The eligible population were patients diagnosed with MPS I.

Full details of the eligibility criteria are presented in Table 3.

### Description of the evidence

A total of 13 publications were included in the review for Criterion 9. One study centre was a source of patients in 2 of the studies, it is possible that a small sample of patients from this centre was included in both cohorts, however, as the reporting of the patient sources does not allow for this to be confirmed, the studies were treated as being on independent cohorts.<sup>37, 38</sup> No SLRs or MAs which aligned with the scope of this review closely enough to be included were identified, and no additional relevant articles were identified through handsearching the reference lists of the relevant SLRs.

Four studies were conducted in the US.  $39-42$  2 in the UK,  $43, 44$  1 in the Netherlands,  $45$  and 2 in both the UK and the Netherlands.<sup>37, 46</sup> The remaining 4 studies were international including MPS I patients from the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Brazil and the US.38, 47-49

The majority (N=10) of studies were retrospective; 3 publications reported on prospective observational studies.  $37, 38, 46$  For 2 of these studies, there may have been crossover in 2 study centres, and therefore it is possible that a small sample of patients were included in both studies.37 Eleven studies evaluated treatment outcomes of HSCT in patients with Hurler syndrome, whereas only 1 study focussed on ERT, in Hurler or attenuated MPS I patients. The remaining study reported on the effect of age at treatment initiation for HSCT and ERT together.<sup>46</sup> Eleven studies reported on patients with Hurler syndrome only, 1 study reported on patients with attenuated MPS I.<sup>44</sup> and 1 study included a mixed population (relevant results were reported for Hurler patients only).<sup>46</sup> The median age at treatment for Hurler syndrome ranged from 15.6 months to 21.8 months. Most studies either categorised patients into age groups or specified an age 'cut-off' for comparison of early and later treatment. This was often based on the median age at treatment within the study cohort, although a number of studies used a different age cut-off, ranging from 18 months to 3 years for Hurler patients.<sup>43, 47</sup> The reason for this varied; Javed 2018 compared outcomes for HSCT before or after 18 months based on prior guidance in the literature,<sup>43</sup> whereas Eisengart 2018 restricted results to 3 years in a sensitivity analysis to improve comparability of the intervention groups in the study.<sup>47</sup> For the 2 studies that included patients with attenuated MPS I, the median age at ERT was 5 to 10.3 years.<sup>44, 46</sup> Four studies examined the effect of age at treatment as a continuous variable on different treatment outcomes, and therefore only provide a relative measure for 'earlier' rather than 'later' treatment within each study cohort, limiting comparison of results in this review.

## Discussion of findings

#### **Quality assessment**

The quality of the included studies was appraised using an adapted ROBINS-I checklist (Table 19; Appendix 3). A summary is presented in Table 6 and Table 7, and the full appraisal is presented in Table 20 (Appendix 3).

#### **Table 6. Summary of ROBINS-I assessments of studies on early versus late treatment for MPS I**



#### **Table 7. Summary of ROBINS-I assessments of studies which explore the effect of age at treatment as a covariate on treatment outcomes**





## *Confounding*

The judgements for risk of bias in confounding ranged from moderate to critical, with several potential confounding baseline characteristics e.g. IDUA level, age at diagnosis, regularly not being controlled for. For 8 studies comparing outcomes for early and late treatment groups, 3 were determined to be at critical risk of bias,  $41, 43, 44$  with 3 at serious risk,  $38, 39, 47$  and 2 at moderate risk of bias.<sup>40, 42</sup> For 5 studies exploring the effect of age at treatment as a covariate on treatment outcomes, 1 was at critical risk,<sup>45</sup> 2 were at serious risk,<sup>46,49</sup> 1 was at moderate risk,<sup>48</sup> and 1 was at low risk of bias.37

#### *Participant selection*

Risk of bias in participant selection was generally either serious or low, dependant on whether selection of participants was related to the outcome or the intervention. For example, in many cases participants were only included if they had survived for a certain length of time after treatment. Wyffels 2017 was judged to be at critical risk of bias for this domain because selection into the study was based on survival for at least a year and was therefore strongly related to the efficacy of treatment.<sup>39</sup> Of the other studies that compared early and late treatment groups, 4 were at serious risk of bias,  $38, 41, 43, 44$  and 3 were at low risk of bias.  $40, 42, 47$  For studies looking at effect of age at treatment as a covariate on clinical outcomes, 4 were at serious risk of bias, 45, 46, 48, 49 and 1 was at low risk  $37$ 

#### *Classification of interventions*

The early and late groups for treatment initiation were generally well-defined; as such, 2 studies comparing early and late treatment were judged to be at a low risk of bias, <sup>40, 41</sup> 4 at moderate risk of bias,  $42-44$ ,  $47$  with only 2 determined to be at a serious risk of bias.  $38$ ,  $39$  However, for the group of studies exploring age at treatment as a covariate on MPS I outcomes, given that this was investigated as a continuous variable (and therefore intervention groups were not clearly defined), all 5 studies were found to be at a serious risk of bias.  $37, 45, 46, 48, 49$ 

#### *Deviation from intended interventions*

All studies were found to be at low risk of bias due to deviations from intended interventions. This was because many focussed on HSCT, which is typically a standalone treatment that is given by intravenous infusion and therefore cannot be discontinued. When HSCT and ERT treatments were
both investigated, the study was judged to be at a low risk of bias as deviating between interventions by switching between HSCT and ERT is expected in standard clinical practice.

## *Missing data*

There was variability in if and how studies reported exclusion of participants due to missing data and for 5 this was not clear. This affected the judgement of the risk of bias, with 4 studies at serious risk,  $38, 39, 43, 48$  2 at moderate risk,  $45, 47$  and 7 at a low risk of bias due to missing data.  $37, 40-42$ , 44, 46, 49

## *Measurement of outcomes*

As most interventional studies were retrospective chart reviews, the individual assessing the outcomes was typically the patient's own clinician and would have therefore been aware of the intervention received. However, whether outcome measurements could be influenced by knowledge of the intervention received, varied, and as such the risk of bias was higher for some studies than for others. For studies comparing early and late HSCT, 4 were determined to be at low risk of bias,  $39, 40, 42, 47$  1 at moderate risk,  $41$  and 3 at serious risk of bias in measurement of outcomes.<sup>38, 43, 44</sup> Amongst studies exploring the effect of age at treatment as a covariate on MPS I outcomes, 4 were judged to be at low risk,  $37, 45, 46, 49$  and 1 at moderate risk of bias.  $48$ 

## *Selection of the report result*

As no studies provided clear evidence that all results were reported, the risk of bias in selection of the reported result was moderate or above. For studies comparing early and late treatment groups, 2 were judged to have a serious risk of bias due to selective reporting of patient subgroups or only clinical outcomes that changed significantly,  $38, 47$  whilst the remaining 6 were moderate.  $39-44$  All 5 studies that evaluated age at treatment as a covariate on outcomes were judged to be at a moderate risk of bias.37, 45, 46, 48, 49

## *Overall bias*

For the studies comparing early and late treatment groups, Javed 2018, Laraway 2016, Wadhwa 2019 and Wyffels 2017 were judged to be at critical risk of bias and Aldenhoven 2015a and Eisengart 2018, at serious risk of bias. Only Rodgers 2017 and Poe 2014 were at moderate overall risk of bias. For studies looking at age at treatment as a covariate on MPS I outcomes, Aldenhoven 2015b was judged to be at a moderate risk of overall bias, Kunin-Batson 2016, Langereis 2016 and Pal 2015 were at serious risk of overall bias and Megens 2014 was at critical risk of overall bias.

## **Results**

The results of the included studies are presented in Table 8. Full study details are provided in the study-level data in Appendix 3.



# **Table 8. The association between age at treatment initiation and clinical outcomes for MPS I**





Where given, the beta coefficient (β) measures the degree of change in an outcome variable for every unit of change in the predictor variable. When the beta coefficient is significant (as determined by the p-value), a positive value indicates that for every unit increase in the predictor variable, the outcome

variable will increase by the beta coefficient value. A negative value indicates that for every unit increase in the predictor variable, the outcome variable will decrease by the beta coefficient value. \*Measure not specified but assumed to be the β coefficient based on study-reported statistical methodology. **Abbreviations**: CI: confidence interval; CMV: cytomegalovirus; DS/CS: dermatan sulphate/chondroitin sulphate; DQ/IQ: developmental quotient/intelligence quotient; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; GVHD: graft-versus-host disease; HR: hazard ratio; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; MPS I: mucopolysaccharidosis type I; OR: odds ratio.

# **HSCT**

The included interventional studies reported varied clinical outcomes on which early and later HSCT (+/- ERT) could be compared (Table 8). The majority investigated Hurler syndrome patients. Whilst Rodgers 2017 found that age at HSCT was not significantly associated with survival (<12 months vs 12–24 months: p=0.429; <12 months vs >24 months: p=0.475).<sup>40</sup> Wadhwa 2019 demonstrated that early BMT was associated with lower risk of all-cause late mortality (p=0.03) thereby concluding that younger age at BMT was protective in these patients with Hurler syndrome, although the risk of all-cause early mortality was not investigated by this study.<sup>41</sup> Another study looking at cardiac outcomes found that earlier HSCT was significantly associated with less mitral (p=0.006) and atrial valve insufficiency (p=0.01).<sup>38</sup> Aldenhoven 2015a and Poe 2014 both demonstrated that earlier HSCT benefits neurodevelopmental and cognitive outcomes, including cerebral atrophy (p=0.001), cord compression (p=0.04), cognitive function (p<0.001), adaptive behaviour ( $p=0.03$ ) and language skills ( $p=0.01$ ).<sup>38, 42</sup> In contrast, Kunin-Batson 2016 found that age at transplant was not a significant predictor or cognitive (IQ) or adaptive functioning.48 The effect of carpal tunnel syndrome was also examined, with Aldenhoven 2015a finding that carpal tunnel syndrome was less common with earlier treatment  $(p=0.02)$ ,<sup>38</sup> but Wyffels 2017 finding no significant difference in carpal tunnel syndrome incidence between the early and late treatment groups.39 A study examining biomarkers of transplantation established that differences in dermatan sulphate/chondroitin sulphate ratio and iduronidase enzyme levels associated with severe corneal clouding, are not related to age at HSCT.<sup>43</sup> Thus, while some studies suggest that earlier initiation of HSCT is beneficial for some clinical outcomes, there are also others where no difference between early and late treatment initiation has been found. This may be due to significant heterogeneity in the patient population as well as data collection methods (e.g. different age at which groups were split into earlier and late).

# **ERT**

Only 2 studies examined how age at ERT treatment affects clinical outcomes, with 1 evaluating this in Hurler syndrome patients specifically and the other in attenuated MPS I (Table 8). Eisengart 2018 reported that in Hurler syndrome patients, age at death did not significantly change when evaluating the group of patients for whom ERT was initiated prior to 3 years of age, compared to the overall cohort.<sup>47</sup> Laraway 2016 investigated cardiac outcomes, corneal clouding, and visual acuity in patients with attenuated MPS I, finding that fewer children aged <10 years at ERT experienced mitral/aortic valve deterioration and corneal clouding, but a greater proportion presented with reduced visual acuity.<sup>44</sup> However, this study did not conduct statistical analyses and, as the participants studied had an attenuated MPS I phenotype, the results are not comparable with the other studies.

Age at treatment initiation as a continuous variable

Five studies investigated the effect of age at treatment initiation on clinical outcomes as a continuous measure only. Amongst studies evaluating Hurler syndrome patients, later age at HSCT was shown to be associated with poorer physical functioning ( $p=0.002$ ), <sup>48</sup> and a predictor for acute/chronic graft-versus-host disease (p=0.001 and p=0.01, respectively) and cytomegaly virus reactivation ( $p=0.02$ ).<sup>37</sup> Further, while Megens 2014 found no association between the incidence of airway management difficulty and age at ERT+HSCT treatment initiation ( $p=0.36$ ),<sup>45</sup> Pal 2015 demonstrated a greater requirement for therapeutic airway intervention after treatment initiation with ERT or HSCT ( $p=0.012$ ).<sup>46</sup> No significant associations between age at HSCT and radiographic parameters for hip dysplasia were found  $49$ 

# **Conclusions**

No effect of age of treatment initiation on certain outcomes was demonstrated in some studies, though others did report an association between age at initiation of HSCT or ERT and clinical outcomes for MPS I patients. However, in many studies the size of the effect, although statistically significant, is relatively small and it is therefore unclear whether early diagnosis of MPS I would result in a clinically significant improvement in patients' symptoms. Furthermore, the age by which treatment must be started to experience any benefits cannot be determined as treatment groups with specific thresholds have not been not compared.

The majority (11/13) of studies focussed solely on Hurler patients, whilst the effect of early initiation of treatment for patients with attenuated MPS I was rarely investigated. Therefore, for these patients the importance of the newborn screening test, which would detect attenuated forms of MPS I, is not well characterised.

Another limitation is that studies generally did not evaluate infants who had initiated treatment at an age where newborn screening would be valuable; the median age at treatment across all studies was more than 1 year and although infants with age at treatment as low as 2 months were included, there were insufficient numbers of these patients for whom data was reported individually to draw conclusions relating to the value of MPS I detection through newborn screening. This is consistent with the previous (2015) UK NSC review, which noted that the median age of treatment in studies was more aligned with clinical detection than earlier initiation of treatment following detection through screening. Overall, there is insufficient evidence to determine whether early initiation of HSCT or ERT improves clinical outcomes for MPS I patients. Generating research evidence of early treatment effectiveness is challenging for rare diseases. However, evaluation of outcomes of 'early' treatment in sibling cases may assist in building the evidence base. Furthermore, improved consistency in the investigated treatment outcomes would be helpful to minimise the uncertainties identified in this review.

# Summary of Findings Relevant to Criterion 9: Not met

**Quantity**: The volume of evidence identified in this review was relatively small; 8 studies compared treatment outcomes for early versus late initiation of HSCT and/or ERT, the majority of which exclusively recruited patients with severe MPS I Hurler syndrome phenotype. Five additional studies were identified that evaluated the association between treatment outcomes and age at treatment as a continuous measure, which also focussed on Hurler syndrome. Sample populations in 2 of the 13 studies were of moderate size (between 134 and 217 MPS I patients), 38, 40 whilst for the remaining studies population sizes were relatively small (19 to 96 MPS I patients). The median age at treatment was >1 year of age across all studies, which is consistent with clinical detection of disease, with no evidence on the effect of early initiation of treatment following screening, especially in very young infants (less than 2 months of age) or in siblings of known cases.

**Quality:** Ten of the total 13 studies were retrospective and were therefore at an increased risk of selection bias and confounding, with the remaining 3 of a prospective study design. The quality of the included studies was generally low, with significant risk of bias amongst studies in participant selection, where inclusion of patients was often associated with their survival or other treatment outcomes. Classification of the timing of intervention (i.e. splitting participants into age groups based on treatment initiation for inference of 'early' or late' treatment following diagnosis) was also found to be inconsistent and poorly justified in many studies, particularly where age at treatment was measured as a continuous variable. Deviation from the intended intervention was deemed to be unlikely (where HSCT cannot be discontinued), or to reflect standard clinical practice, and was therefore judged to be at low risk of bias across all studies.

**Applicability:** All eligible studies were conducted in high-income countries that are considered to be reflective of the UK setting. Thus, the applicability to UK clinical practice is high.

**Consistency:** A large variety of clinical outcomes were evaluated by the included studies. Where more than one study measured the same outcomes the methods of measurement and the classification of 'early' and 'late' treatment groups differed, meaning that informative comparisons between studies are difficult to make. Overall, some studies suggest a statistically significant benefit for earlier initiation of treatment, but the effect is small and of unknown clinical significance; other studies find no difference between early and late treatment initiation. Therefore, there is high uncertainty as to whether earlier treatment provides an overall clinical benefit for patients with MPS I.

**Conclusions:** Based on the evidence synthesised by this review, the question of whether early initiation of treatment improves outcomes for MPS I patients cannot be answered. The results were mixed and no clear threshold for the age at which any potential effect may exist has been established. Although there may be benefits in initiating HSCT early in patients diagnosed with Hurler syndrome for survival, neurodevelopmental, cognitive, and cardiac outcomes, these outcomes were often conflicting across the studies. In addition the evidence was heterogeneous and limited by study design, methodology, and small sample sizes. With significant heterogeneity in patient baseline characteristics and the way outcomes were assessed, results are not comparable. Studies also did not directly assess the potential benefit of early treatment following positive newborn screening tests, and the cut-offs used were often comparable to the median age of treatment for clinically detected Hurler syndrome, rather than early initiation of HSCT/ERT in a potentially screen-detected newborn. With only one included study that specifically examined the effect of age at treatment initiation in patients with attenuated forms of MPS I, the potential benefit of screening and subsequent early treatment is particularly unclear for this phenotype. In summary, based on the findings of this review, there is insufficient evidence to conclude whether newborn screening for MPS I has an impact on early treatment of newborns confirmed to have MPS I, and whether this is beneficial for these infants.

# Review summary

# Conclusions and implications for policy

Based on the overall synthesis of evidence published since the last UK NSC review in 2014, newborn screening for MPS I is still not recommended.

Two questions were considered in this rapid review: whether there has been a significant development in the evidence base relating to (1) an appropriate screening test for the identification of newborns with MPS I and (2) a treatment benefit of HSCT and/or ERT initiated early in MPS I patients following screening or identification by cascade-testing of siblings.

There were several limitations to the evidence. Firstly, only 4 relevant studies reporting on newborn screening for MPS I were published since the searches for the last UK NSC review were run in 2014.<sup>25, 31, 35, 36</sup> Three studies reported on assessing IDUA activity measured by tandem mass spectrometry,  $25, 31, 36$  while only 1 study assessed the use of a fluorometric assay of IDUA activity as a screening test for MPS I.35 Differences in the screening process further limit comparability of the screening studies; there was substantial heterogeneity in the cut-offs used for classification of a screen-positive test result, along with the approach taken for repeat testing and use of second-tier index tests to further rule out false-positive cases.

Crucially, full reporting of test accuracy for assessment of IDUA activity by tandem mass spectrometry or fluorometric assay was lacking in all studies; only PPV was reported without any measure of variation such as a confidence interval, diminishing confidence in the results. While positive or negative predictive values are often considered valuable for assessing the clinical validity of a screening test, they depend on the prevalence of the condition in the population. As such, even a highly accurate screening test will have a poor PPV when used in a low-prevalence population,<sup>50</sup> as may be the case for MPS I. In all newborn screening programmes identified by this review, only screen-positive samples were sent for confirmatory testing. As such, the number of true or false-negative test results was not determined, preventing calculation of test accuracy parameters such as sensitivity, specificity and likelihood ratios, which are not substantially influenced by disease prevalence and are intrinsic to the screening test.<sup>51</sup> It is important to acknowledge that this process is often characteristic of screening for rare diseases; due to the expected low incidence of the condition, the ultimate aim is to identify all babies at risk of having the condition for follow-up and confirmatory testing, while excluding those who do not require follow-up. Repeat rounds of screening with the index test are considered to increase

confidence in excluding negative test results from the screening process without receiving the reference standard.<sup>36</sup> Nevertheless, the small number of studies along with study heterogeneity and lack of test accuracy parameters, all critically limit the evaluation of test accuracy for the newborn screening programmes identified in this review.

The phenotype of confirmed MPS I was specified in only 2 of the included studies.<sup>31, 36</sup> In clinical practice, MPS I phenotype and subsequent treatment choices are often based on clinical symptoms, which usually present later in infancy for Hurler syndrome or later in life for attenuated forms, therefore resulting in a diagnostic delay and potentially increasing the risk of disease progression, particularly for those with Hurler syndrome.<sup>2</sup> By undertaking genetic analyses, it is possible to predict the phenotype before the onset of symptoms if a mutation's correlation with a phenotype has been established, as determined by Burlina 2018.<sup>31</sup> In the wider literature, Kingma 2013 has reported on a diagnostic algorithm involving enzymatic analysis of IDUA activity in fibroblasts that allowed for differentiation between Hurler syndrome and attenuated MPS in affected newborns with 82% sensitivity and 100% specificity, although the performance of this algorithm is yet to be validated in a larger cohort.<sup>2</sup> No evidence on an index test that can effectively distinguish between MPS I phenotypes in newborn samples was identified by this review. For newborns confirmed to have MPS I through screening, it may not be possible to determine how severely the child will be affected by the condition until symptoms arise, which could be mild and may present much later in life if affected by an attenuated form. For example, Chuang 2018 predicted that the diagnosed newborns had attenuated forms of MPS I, as they had remained asymptomatic "to date".<sup>36</sup> This raises potential implications for treatment choices and could also impact the wellbeing of the parent(s) or caregivers following the screening test result, due to anxiety associated with not knowing when or how the disease will progress.

Two screening programmes explicitly reported the number of cases of pseudodeficiency for MPS I. Pseudodeficiency alleles can result in reduced enzymatic activity of IDUA *in vitro* in samples from people who do not have MPS I, thereby complicating newborn DBS screening for MPS I.<sup>18</sup> Pseudodeficiency is not known to lead to any disease or clinical symptoms, and therefore treatment is not required.<sup>18</sup> The relatively high incidence of pseudodeficiency detected in these 2 studies highlights the importance of using multiple confirmatory tests to distinguish screen-positives who are affected by MPS I and those who have reduced IDUA activity without MPS I. The prevalence of pseudodeficiency has been reported to be particularly high in African-American populations or those of African origin;<sup>18,</sup>  $22$  indeed, it appears that all newborns with pseudodeficiency identified in the Burlina 2018 study were of African descent. $31$  As ethnicity of the screened population were not reported by Hopkins 2015, it is not possible to examine whether this may have influenced the incidence of pseudodeficiency in this study. $25, 31$  By contrast, the Minter-Baerg 2018 screening programme classified both heterozygotic carriers and newborns with

pseudodeficiency as false-positives cases.<sup>35</sup> Despite the use of similar confirmatory tests as performed in the Burlina 2018 screening programme, Chuang 2018 did not distinguish between confirmed MPS I cases and pseudodeficiency.<sup>36</sup> This is a very important factor to consider when evaluating screening programmes for MPS I, as inconsistency in the identification or definition of pseudodeficiency could further complicate screening test results and evaluation of test performance within and across screening studies.

As well as sparse evidence to support the accuracy of DBS screening tests for MPS I, the evidence was limited and of poor quality for the effect of early versus late treatment initiation for infants or children diagnosed with MPS I. All but 2 were retrospective studies of clinical data; as such, they were at a high risk of selection bias resulting from inclusion of MPS I patients with complete data only and were further limited by samples sizes ranging from 26 to 217 patients, where application of statistical methodology may not produce robust results. Furthermore, no studies specifically aimed to evaluate treatment outcomes for MPS I following diagnosis by screening or cascade testing of siblings. Instead there was substantial heterogeneity in the methodology and measured outcomes, with no clear trend towards outcome improvement with early or late treatment initiation. The median age at treatment initiation varied between studies, and the reporting of relevant results was often sparse, with 4 studies only briefly reporting whether outcomes were associated with the age of treatment initiation.

Overall, there was some evidence that, if given early (i.e. before the median age of treatment initiation or younger than the chosen cut-off), HSCT was associated with favourable neurodevelopmental and cognitive treatment outcomes,<sup>38</sup> lower risk of all-cause mortality,41 and lower incidence of mitral/atrial valve insufficiency and carpal tunnel syndrome in infants with Hurler syndrome.<sup>38</sup> By contrast, 2 studies found no significant difference between early and late treatment for survival or incidence of carpal tunnel syndrome, respectively.<sup>39, 40</sup> When considered as a continuous variable, later age at HSCT showed a weak statistically significant association with poor physical function and the need for therapeutic airway intervention. <sup>46, 48</sup> Whilst statistically significant interactions were detected between age at treatment and graft-versus-host disease (both acute and chronic) and cytomegalovirus reactivation,<sup>38</sup> the relative measures of effect were very small. No associations were found between age at treatment and cognitive and adaptive functioning,  $48$  or hip dysplasia.  $49$ 

Ultimately, while some studies reported a statistically significant benefit of early HSCT or ERT others did not and the overall effect sizes were small. It is difficult to form conclusions based on the current evidence due to the variety of outcomes reported and the fact that the age by which early and late treatment groups were defined varied between studies, or that age was only analysed as a covariate of the outcome measured.

Similarly, as for HSCT, the effect of age at ERT initiation on outcomes in Hurler syndrome or attenuated MPS I patients remains unclear. In Hurler patients, there was no clear difference in age at death for early ERT (before 3 years) compared to an overall cohort (treatment ranging from 0.5 to 4.7 years of age).<sup>47</sup> One study reported favourable treatment outcomes in attenuated MPS I patients who had received ERT before the median age of 10 years compared with after 10 years, but these findings were not supported by statistical analyses. Furthermore, these patients were not identified through newborn screening; instead diagnoses were made based on both symptoms and molecular analyses at a median of 4 years of age, suggesting that for many patients there was a large gap between diagnosis and treatment. Evidence on screening or early treatment for attenuated MPS I was particularly limited overall. Thus, the benefit of treating screen-detected patients with attenuated forms of MPS I, who typically present with symptoms later in childhood, remains unknown. Globally, over half (60.5%) of patients with MPS I are estimated to have Hurler syndrome,<sup>3</sup> therefore the lack of evidence for attenuated phenotypes may be unsurprising. Nevertheless, it is important to understand how newborn screening for MPS I would ultimately affect patients confirmed to have MPS I across the phenotypic spectrum. The newborn diagnosed with Hurler-Scheie syndrome following DBS testing in the Burlina 2018 screening study was reportedly treated with ERT, but details on how soon after diagnosis treatment was initiated, along with any clinical outcomes, were not reported. $31$ 

# Limitations

This section considers limitations of the review methodology. Limitations of the evidence and evidence gaps are discussed in the section above.

This rapid review was conducted in line with the UK NSC requirements for evidence summaries, as described at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-nsc-evidencereview-process/appendix-f-requirements-for-uk-nsc-evidence-summaries. All items on the UK NSC Reporting Checklist for Evidence Summaries have been addressed in this report. A summary of the checklist, along with the page or pages where each item can be found in this report, is presented in (Table 21 in Appendix 6).

Searches of multiple databases were conducted (see Appendix 3). Database search terms were restricted by study design and interventions and limited to studies published since 2014. Published and well validated filters were used to limit by study design,  $12, 26, 34$ searches were supplemented with SLR reference list searches, and expert clinical opinion was sought on the completeness of the list of relevant records identified, which decreases the likelihood that major important studies were missed.

## **Included publication types**

This review only included peer-reviewed journal publications and excluded publications that were not peer-reviewed and grey literature. This may have led to the exclusion of relevant evidence. However, this is an accepted methodological adjustment for a rapid review and is unlikely to miss any pivotal studies.

No calculations were performed in this review. For question 1, publications were excluded if they only presented data that would require a calculation of test accuracy parameters that were otherwise not reported. This was taken as a pragmatic approach and was unlikely to result in key screening studies being missed.

## **Language**

Only studies published in English were included. Given that this review was focusing on evidence relevant to the UK setting, this limitation should not have led to the exclusion of any pivotal studies.

## **Review methodology**

Articles were reviewed by a single reviewer in the first instance. A second reviewer examined all included articles, 10% of excluded articles, and any articles where there was uncertainty about inclusion. Systematic reviews were identified through a separate search and were pre-screened based on title by a single, senior reviewer. This pragmatic strategy should have minimised the risk of errors.

# Appendix 1 — Search strategy

# Electronic databases

The search strategy included searches of the databases shown in Table 9. MEDLINE, MEDLINE In-Process, MEDLINE Daily, Epub Ahead of Print, Embase, and the Cochrane Library, including Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) and Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE).



## **Table 9. Summary of electronic database searches and dates**

# Search terms

Search terms included combinations of free text and subject headings (Medical Subject Headings [MeSH] for MEDLINE, and Emtree terms for Embase). Due to the small size of the evidence base, searches were based on disease area (MPS I) terms, limited only by publication type, date of publication (since the previous evidence synthesis was conducted) and to studies conducted in humans.

Search terms for MEDLINE, MEDLINE In-Process, MEDLINE Daily, Epub Ahead of Print and Embase are shown in Table 10, search terms for the Cochrane Library databases are shown in Table 11 and search terms for DARE are shown in Table 12.

## **Table 10. Search strategy for MEDLINE, MEDLINE In-Process, MEDLINE Daily, Epub Ahead of Print and Embase (to be searched simultaneously via the Ovid SP platform)**



### **Table 11. Search strategy for the Cochrane Library Databases (Searched via the Wiley Online platform)**



# **Table 12. Search strategy for DARE (Searched via the CRD website)**



Results were imported into EndNote and de-duplicated.

# Appendix 2 — Included and excluded studies

# PRISMA flowchart

Figure 3 summarises the volume of publications included and excluded at each stage of the review. Seventeen publications were ultimately judged to be relevant to one or more review questions and were considered for extraction. Publications that were included or excluded after the review of full-text articles are detailed below.



# **Figure 3. Summary of publications included and excluded at each stage of the review**

# Publications included after review of full-text articles

The 17 publications included after review of full-texts are summarised in Table 13 below. Studies were prioritised for extraction and data synthesis. It was planned *a priori* that the following approach would be taken to prioritise studies for extraction:

- 1. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses would be considered the highest quality of evidence if any were found. Following this, study designs would be prioritised for each question in the order listed in Table 2 and Table 3 respectively.
- 2. Studies relating to epidemiology would be prioritised if they considered a UK population, followed by studies from Western populations analogous to the UK.

In addition, the following criteria were applied after assessing the overall volume of evidence identified in the review:

3. Epidemiology studies that were completed over 10 years before this review was conducted (i.e. studies that were completed in 2005 or earlier, regardless of publication date) were not extracted.

Publications not selected for extraction and data synthesis are clearly detailed in Table 14 below.

# **Table 13. Summary of publications included after review of full-text articles, and the question(s) each publication was identified as being relevant to**



Abbreviations: DBS: dried blood spot; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IDUA: α-L-iduronidase.

# Publications excluded after review of full-text articles

Of the 110 publications included after the review of titles and abstracts, 93 were ultimately judged not to be relevant to this review. These publications, along with reasons for exclusion, are listed in Table 14.













# Appendix 3 — Summary and appraisal of individual studies

### Data extraction

### **Table 15. Studies relevant to criterion 4**







Abbreviations: ABG: acid β-glucocerebrosidase; ASM: acid sphingomyelinase; DBS: dried blood spot; ENBS: expanded newborn screening; GAA: α-glucosidase; GAG: glycosaminoglycan; GALC: β-galactosidase; GLA: acid α-galactosidase; IDUA: α-L-iduronidase; LSD: lysosomal storage disorder; MoM: multiple of the median; MPS I: mucopolysaccharidosis type I; MS/MS: multiplexed tandem mass spectrometry; NBS: newborn blood spot screening; NR: not reported; PPV: positive predictive value.





### Prevalence of MPS I in the study

4 newborns were diagnosed with MPS I, with a prevalence rate of 1.35 per 100,000 live births

### Sample size

N screened/invited = 294,196 (newborn screening [received index test]) N eligible =  $8$  (suspected cases referred for confirmation) N screened = 8 (analysed for confirmatory diagnosis) N excluded (with reason) =  $0$ N lost to follow-up  $= 0$ N completed  $= 8$ N excluded from analysis  $= 0$ N included in analysis  $= 8$ 

#### **Demographics**

Newborns: n=8

- Female: n=5
- $\bullet$  Male: n=3

#### Index test

IDUA activity tested by tandem mass spectrometry assay. If an abnormal test result was obtained, the NBS test was repeated on the same initial sample. If positive, a second DBS sample was collected and re-tested. The cut-off value was 3.0 µmol/L/h for both the initial and second DBS tests. If the result of the second DBS sample for tandem mass spectrometry was positive, the case was considered to be high-risk and referred for confirmatory testing.

#### **Screening Method**  Reference standard

Suspected cases were referred to Mackay Memorial Hospital for confirmatory analysis. Urinary quantitative GAG analysis was confirmed using the dimethylmethylene blue method (DMB/creatinine ratio), two-dimensional electrophoresis and liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry to detect predominant GAG-derived disaccharides (DS+HS, DS only or HS only).

Differential diagnosis was achieved using a leukocyte enzyme assay for β-iduronidase and molecular DNA analysis using PCR to confirm deficiency of IDUA activity and genotype, respectively.

#### **Screening results for MPS I:**

The estimated recall rate for MPS I was 0.005% (initially tested positive)





**Abbreviations:** DBS: dried blood spot; DMB: dimethylmethylene blue method; DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid; DS: dermatan sulphate; EDTA: ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; GAG: glycosaminoglycan; HS: heparan sulphate; IDUA: α-iduronidase; IDS: iduronate-2-sulfatase; MPS: mucopolysaccharidoses; NBS: newborn screening; NR: not reported; PCR: polymerase chain reaction.









Abbreviations: DBS: dry blood spot; IDUA: alpha-L-iduronidase; LSD: lysosomal storage disorder; MPS I: mucopolysaccharidosis type I; NA: not applicable; NBS: newborn blood spot screening; NR: not reported.







**Abbreviations**: CLIR: The Collaborative Laboratory Integrated Reports; GAA: acid α-glucosidase; GALC: galactocerebrosidase; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IDUA: α-L-iduronidase; MPS I: mucopolysaccharidosis type I; NR: not reported.

### **Table 16. Studies relevant to criterion 9**



### Duration of follow-up

All included patients had a minimum follow up of 3 years post-HCT.

Sample size N screened/invited = NR  $N$  eligible = 222 N excluded (with reason) =  $5$  (attenuated phenotype)

N lost to follow-up  $= 0$ N completed = 217 N excluded from analysis = NR (data obtained from patients who received growth hormone treatment were excluded from the start of treatment) N included in analysis = NR

### Data collection

The medical records of all included patients were retrospectively evaluated. On the basis of medical records as well as the various involved specialists, endpoints were scored according to their presence, and progression was compared with the pre-HCT status and timing of interventions.

- Standardised and validated tests were used to assess neurodevelopmental outcome and produce a developmental quotient/intelligence quotient (DQ/IQ) to demonstrate cognitive impairment levels.
- Growth data collected included weight, height, head circumference and body mass index.
- Neurological endpoints were evaluated using radiologic imaging.
- Orthopaedic endpoints and their surgical intervention were evaluated using radiologic imaging, electrophysiological tests and the involved orthopaedic specialists.
- Cardiac endpoints were based on cardiac ultrasounds and the involved cardiologists.
- Respiratory endpoints were based on polysomnography and the involved paediatricians and ear, nose, and throat specialists.
- Ophthalmologic endpoints and their interventions were measured by eye specialists.
- Audiologic endpoints consisted of the presence of a defined hearing loss and the need for hearing aids based on audiologic tests.
- Endocrinologic endpoints included GH treatment and hypothyroidism requiring treatment.

### Data analysis

The association between the various patient, donor, and transplantation-related predictors and the primary endpoints were analysed using linear mixed models. For secondary endpoints, univariate and multivariate regression analysis were used: Cox proportional hazards regression analysis in case of clear event-time endpoints and logistic regression analysis in case of binary endpoints. Univariate predictors of outcome parameters that were statistically significant (P < 0.1) were selected for multivariate analysis. Results were expressed as estimate (β), hazard ratios (HRs), or odds ratios (ORs) and corresponding 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs). P values <0.05 were considered statistically significant. Cumulative incidence curves were used to depict event-time endpoints.

### Demographic characteristics








**Abbreviations:** BM: bone marrow; CB: cord blood; CI: confidence interval; DQ/IQ: developmental quotient/intelligence quotient; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; GH: growth hormone; HCT: haematopoietic cell transplantation; HR: hazard ratio; IDUA: α-L-iduronidase; MPS-IH: mucopolysaccharidosis type I-Hurler syndrome; NR: not reported; OR: odds ratio; PBSC: peripheral blood stem cells.



# **Study Reference Aldenhoven 2015b**

#### Data collection

Outcomes were measured in patients receiving HSCT at one of the two participating centres.

# Data analysis

For predictor analysis, patient (gender, diagnosis, age at HSCT) and HSCT-related (HSCT centre, conditioning regimen, donor type, HLA disparity, total nucleated cells infused) factors were selected. The association between these factors and the primary and secondary endpoints were analysed using Cox proportional hazards regression analysis. Univariate predictors of endpoints with P < 0.10 were selected for multivariate analysis. Predictors with P < 0.05 in multivariate analysis were considered statistically significant. Kaplan-Meier curves were used to depict outcome probabilities.

### Demographic characteristics



Intervention Conditioning regimens:

 **Intervention** 

Busulfan + cyclophosphamide followed by Thymoglobulin or alemtuzumab from December 2004 to January 2009

Fludarabine + busulfan followed by Thymoglobulin or alemtuzumab from January 2009 to March 2014



Abbreviations: aGVHD: acute graft versus host disease; BM: bone marrow; cGVHD: chronic graft versus host disease; CI: confidence interval; CMV: cytomegalovirus; EFS: event-free survival; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; HCT: haematopoietic cell transplantation; HLA: human leukocyte antigen; HR: hazard ratio; MPS: mucopolysaccharidosis; MSD: matched sibling donor; MUD: matched unrelated donor; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; OS: overall survival; PBSC: peripheral blood stem cell; RMCH; Royal Manchester Children's Hospital; UCB: unrelated cord blood; UK: United Kingdom; UMCU: University Medical Center Utrecht.





CNS outcomes = 27 (all untreated patients (n=21) were excluded because records on CNS outcomes were unavailable; 1 ERT patient was excluded from hydrocephalus analysis and 5 ERT patients were excluded from cervical cancer cord compression because records on these outcomes were not available)

N included in analysis:

Survival = 93 (63 included in sub-analysis for patients under 3 years) CNS outcomes = 66

### Data collection

The charts of patients were retrospectively reviewed for endpoints relating to the lethality and neurologic pathology of MPS-IH. These data on survival and emergence of hydrocephalus and cervical spinal cord compression were reported from the international centres. Records on CNS outcomes were not available for the untreated historical controls. Both outcomes were defined according to standard clinical guidelines at each institution, including neuroimaging.

### Data analysis

Statistics: Descriptive statistics were tabulated per treatment group. Continuous variables were summarized with mean and range while categorical variables were summarized with frequency and percentage. Survival curves were evaluated using Kaplan–Meier estimates while comparisons between groups were based on hazard ratios as estimated by unadjusted Cox proportional hazards models and robust variance estimation. Hydrocephalus and cervical cord compression were evaluated separately based on cumulative incidence functions.

Sensitivity analysis: a sensitivity analysis was conducted in which age at treatment was restricted to younger than 3 years.



### Demographic characteristics

Intervention and comparator

 **Intervention**  Intervention: continuous ERT from a young age. All patients received the standard dose of ERT except for one previously reported, whose dose was increased.



Abbreviations: CNS: central nervous system; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; HCT: haematopoietic cell transplantation; HR: hazard ratio; MPS-IH: mucopolysaccharidosis type I-Hurler syndrome; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; UK: United Kingdom; US: United States; SD: standard deviation.











Abbreviations: DS/CS: dermatan sulphate/chondroitin sulphate; GAG: glycosaminoglycan; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; MPS: mucopolysaccharidosis; NA, not applicable; NR: not reported.



## **Study Reference Kunin-Batson 2016**

Diagnosis of MPS-IH was made in accordance with the clinical guidelines at the time, and all patients included in this study manifested early onset of severe symptoms prior to 2 years of age.

### Duration of follow-up

## NR

Sample size N screened/invited = 66 (49 UK and 17 US) N eligible = 47 (34 UK and 13 US) N excluded (with reason) = UK - 15 (2 [incomplete data] + 1 [no consent] + 2 [significant health issues] + 7 [less than 1 year from HCT] + 3 [missing genetic mutation information]); US – 4 (lack of genetic mutation information)

### N lost to follow-up  $= 0$  $N$  completed = 47 N excluded from analysis  $= 0$ N included in analysis  $= 47$

## Data collection

Several measures of cognitive function were used, with the scales differing depending on the age group of the child. Full-scale IQ scores were collapsed across instruments to index cognitive ability with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15 representing the average range of functioning and scores more than 2 standard deviations below the mean (i.e., <70) representing impairment. The Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales were used to measure children's daily functioning. Domains of the scale are combined to form an adaptive behaviour composite score. Domain areas and the composite score have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15 with 2 standard deviations below the mean representing clinical impairment. The Child Health Questionnaire was used to measure physical and psychosocial well-being. Individual domain scores are aggregated to derive 2 summary component scores: the physical functioning and psychosocial health summary scores which are then converted into norm-referenced T-scores with a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 10. Poor quality of life has been defined as 2 standard deviations below the mean of the normative sample or a physical functioning or psychosocial health summary score <30. The Hollingshead and Redlich classification of socioeconomic status was used. Genotype was obtained from medical records and classified as known severe and other.

## Data analysis

Descriptive characteristics were examined by mutation type and in aggregate. Unadjusted comparisons were based on t-test with unequal variance and Welch degrees of freedom. Separate multiple linear regression models were used to examine the adjusted influence of demographic (sex), treatment factors (age at transplant, time since transplant, radiation treatment, type of transplant, number of transplants and genetic factors) on cognitive, adaptive functioning composite and physical and psychosocial quality of life. All analyses were adjusted for treatment centre and regression analysis of adaptive behaviour functioning was further adjusted for version type. Robust variance estimation was used for confidence intervals and p-values.







quotient; MPS-IH: mucopolysaccharidosis type I Hurler syndrome; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; SD, standard deviation; UK: United Kingdom; US: United States.





# Data collection

For the patients who were eligible for inclusion, all anteroposterior pelvic radiographs available on June 1, 2014, were retrospectively collected in a DICOM format. Additional information regarding sex, genotype, age at HSCT, enzyme replacement therapy pre-HSCT, IDUA activity post-HSCT, and donor chimerism was collected.

A set of radiographic parameters was constructed on the basis of a review of the literature, expert opinion, and feasibility and was reviewed by a group of experts. Each radiograph was evaluated by two independent observers using a strict protocol facilitated by OrthoGon software. The observers were trained by analysing between ten and twenty radiographs of patients not included in the study, following the study protocol. The training results were discussed, and where necessary, the definition of radiographic landmarks was modified to increase reproducibility. The observers were blinded to the patient's clinical data at the time of the evaluation.

## Data analysis

First, interobserver variability was assessed by calculating the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC, absolute agreement) on the basis of components of a variance analysis of a random selection of one radiograph per patient. For intraobserver variability, the ICC was calculated on the basis of ten images scored twice by each observer. Systematic errors were assessed by mixed-effects models, analysing the interaction of the average measurement of the two observers and the difference of the two measurements. Subsequently, Bland- Altman plots were constructed to identify outliers. Outliers were defined as data points outside the 95% limits of agreement. When a radiograph had one or more outliers, a determination was made whether to re-evaluate the complete radiograph, to exclude measurements from the final analysis of trends, or to include all findings despite the observed disagreement. In the final analyses, the average of the measurements of the two observers was used.

Reference values were obtained from the literature, and dichotomous variables were constructed for all parameters (normal or abnormal). The correlation of radiographic parameters was assessed on the basis of the last radiograph before the end of follow-up and calculated by the Pearson correlation coefficient. Binary outcomes were compared using the Fisher exact test.

Trajectories of individual patients were plotted over age for each parameter. Where applicable, average trends were fitted using mixed-effects models. Inter-individual variation was allowed for via random intercepts and slopes, and interaction with age at HSCT, enzyme replacement therapy prior to HSCT, donor chimerism, and IDUA activity post-HSCT was assessed. A p value of <0.05 was considered significant.





Abbreviations: DICOM: Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; ICC: intraclass correlation coefficient; IDUA: α-Liduronidase; MPS IH: mucopolysaccharidosis type I Hurler phenotype; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported.



value was ≤0.05. Aortic valve, mitral valve, corneal clouding, and visual acuity shift analyses for age categories present the patient's change in score from baseline using last observation carried forward methodology (using the last post-baseline value). For each endpoint, the shift analysis classifies a patient's last post-baseline value as having worsened relative to baseline (deteriorated), remained the same as baseline (stable), or improved relative to baseline (improved). Results are presented overall and stratified by baseline age.

Demographic characteristics



a Scheie or Hurler-Scheie not specified

 **Intervention**  Intervention and comparator ERT: Laronidase intravenous infusions at 100 U/kg body weight weekly. Outcomes were compared according to patient age treatment initiation (before or after 10 years of age) **Outcomes Measured**  Primary outcome Urinary glycosaminoglycan (uGAG) excretion, 6-minute walk test (6MWT), forced vital capacity (FVC), height-for-age Z score, cardiac status (measured by left ventricular function and aortic and mitral valve function), corneal clouding, and visual acuity Secondary outcomes Additional investigations included testing for anti-laronidase antibodies and reduced cellular uptake of laronidase

# **Efficacy**

- Mitral valve: Fewer children aged <10 years at treatment initiation experienced deterioration compared with patients aged ≥10 years at treatment initiation (14% vs 45% at the last assessment)
- Aortic valve: Fewer children aged <10 years at treatment initiation experienced aortic valve deterioration compared with patients aged 10 years (14% vs 40%)
- Corneal clouding: Of children aged <10 years at treatment initiation, 9% deteriorated compared with 25% of patients aged ≥10 years
- Visual acuity: A greater percentage of children aged <10 years deteriorated compared with patients aged ≥10 years (40% vs 14%)





Abbreviations: 6MWT: 6-minute walk test; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; FVC: forced vital capacity; GAG: glycosaminoglycan. HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; MPS: mucopolysaccharidosis; NR: not reported; uGAG: urinary glycosaminoglycan.





adjustment for correlated records.

# Demographic characteristics



**Intervention Intervention: ERT prior to HSCT**; Comparator: outcome correlation with age



Abbreviations: ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; MPS I: mucopolysaccharidosis type I; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported.



## **Study Reference Poe 2014**

For all patients, diagnosis of the more severe Hurler phenotype of mucopolysaccharidosis I was confirmed by clinical phenotype, including evidence of central nervous system involvement, and low IDUA enzyme levels in peripheral blood leukocytes.

### Duration of follow-up

Median follow-up of 7.3 years (range 2 to 21.7), with a median of 7.0 evaluations (range 3 to 18).

Sample size N screened/invited = 32  $N$  eligible = 32 N excluded (with reason) =  $1$  (declined to participate)

N lost to follow-up  $= 0$ N completed  $= 31$ N excluded from analysis  $= 0$ N included in analysis = 31

### Data collection

- All patients were evaluated on the same day by a neurodevelopmental paediatrician working with audiologists, speech therapists, psychologists, and physical therapists at baseline and every 6 to 12 months after transplantation
- Physical, neurological, and visual and hearing examinations were performed at each evaluation, including assessment of corneal clouding and documentation of use of eyeglasses as a marker of decreased visual acuity
- Audiological function was assessed by behavioural audiometry for children older than 6 months, and by otoacoustic emissions for younger children. Tympanometry was performed in all patients
- Brainstem auditory evoked potentials were used to assess the degree of sensorineural hearing loss in patients who were difficult to assess using behavioural audiometry and those for whom further information regarding auditory brainstem function was needed
- Standardised and validated neurobehavioral tools were used to assess all children. Cognitive, adaptive, and language function were longitudinally assessed

### Data analysis

- To evaluate disease progression, the baseline cognitive score was used to create a developmental quotient (developmental age/calendar age). Developmental curves were generated and analysed to determine the effect of disease progression and age at transplantation on outcomes. The resulting developmental trajectories were compared to norms of typically developing children
- The relationship of age at transplantation and baseline cognitive ratio with post-transplant developmental trajectories was evaluated using general linear mixed models. Independent variables were age at the time of testing, age, baseline developmental quotient, age at transplantation (months), and the interactions between developmental quotient and age at testing, and age at transplantation and age at testing. Developmental score was the dependent variable. The models assumed random intercept and slope (age), which was centred at 0 months of age. To aid interpretation, the interaction terms were evaluated and removed if nonsignificant (p>0.10). The regression coefficients (β) were evaluated for significance
- Although age was entered as a continuous variable, results are reported for groups based on age at transplantation to help visualise the effect of age







Abbreviations: ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; IDUA: α-L-iduronidase; MPS: mucopolysaccharidosis; NR: not reported.



## Data collection

The clinical notes of patients were retrospectively reviewed for over-night sleep oximetry studies, therapeutic and biochemical data.

# Data analysis

Significant associations between patient, biomarker and treatment-related variables and primary endpoints for all patients, HSCT treated Hurler and ERT treated attenuated subgroups were identified using multivariate stepwise regression modelling. Possible confounding variables including age at start of treatment and duration of follow-up were included in the model. Significance was assumed where 95% confidence intervals did not include 1 (p-values  $(0.05)$ .





Abbreviations: DS:CS: dermatan sulphate: chondroitin sulphate; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IDUA: α-L-iduronidase; MPS: mucopolysaccharidosis; NR: not reported; SDB: sleep disordered breathing.



## **Study Reference Rodgers 2017**

Publicly available social media and results from an unrelated IRB-approved study were used to confirm vital status in those remaining unknown. Causes of death for known decedents were verified through retrospective medical chart review and classified into one of four major categories: cardiac, pulmonary, infectious disease, and other (which included haematologic/oncologic, neurologic, gastrointestinal or unknown). NDI proximate cause of death was verified by patient's clinical data, including documentation leading up to the death, death note, and autopsy findings, if performed.

### Data analysis

Time at risk for survival analyses began at the time of successful or final transplantation until death or censoring (lost-to-follow-up or administratively on Dec 31 2013). Unadjusted survival curves were based on Kaplan-Meier estimates. Adjusted analyses used Cox proportional hazards regression models adjusting for sex, transplant era, age categories at transplantation (<12 months, 12–24 months, and >24 months) and percentage engraftment categories (≥90%, 10–89%, and <10%) with robust variance estimation for confidence intervals and p values. Cause of death over time was evaluated using cumulative incidence curves to account for potential competing risks.





Abbreviations: CDC: Centers for Disease Control; CI: confidence interval; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IDUA: alpha-Liduronidase; IRB: institutional review board; IQR: inter-quartile range; MPS IH: mucopolysaccharidosis I, Hurler syndrome; NDI: National Death Index; NR: not reported; SD: standard deviation; TBI: total body irradiation; TLI: total lymphoid irradiation; UCB: umbilical cord blood; US: United States.



was used to extend the vital status information through December 2016. All patients were assigned a primary and, if present, secondary cause of death, independently by 2 investigators. Cause of death assignments were further verified by a third investigator and in the event of discrepant assignments, a fourth investigator provided adjudication. Causes of death (primary or secondary) attributable to the underlying IEM were classified as disease-related mortality. Causes of death due to therapeutic exposures and the transplantation procedure were collectively classified as transplantation-related mortality.

# **Study Reference Wadhwa 2018**

## Data analysis

Kaplan-Meier techniques were used to describe overall survival. The cumulative incidence of cause-specific mortality was calculated using competingrisk methods. The standardized mortality ratio (SMR), a ratio of observed to expected number of deaths, was used to compare the mortality experienced by this cohort to the age- (5-year intervals), sex-, and calendar-specific (5- year intervals) mortality of the general US population, using data obtained from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The 95% confidence intervals (CIs) of the SMR were calculated using the Poisson regression method. SMRs were calculated for the entire cohort, as well as separately by sex, year of transplantation (1983 to 1988, 1989 to 1994, 1995 to 2000, 2001 to 2006, and 2007 to 2014), primary IEM diagnosis, and presence or absence of chronic GVHD. Cox regression analysis was used to identify predictors of all-cause mortality for the entire cohort, as well as for the most prevalent IEM diagnoses considered individually. Owing to the small number of subjects and deaths in each model and the associated collinearity among the variables, a parsimonious model was created using the variables with associated P values <0.1 in the multivariable model. Furthermore, owing to the varied clinical presentations of different IEM and the significant differences in median age at BMT by type of IEM, the median age at BMT of each primary disease was used to evaluate its effect on late mortality.





Abbreviations: BMT: blood or marrow transplantation; CI: confidence interval; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; HSCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IDUA: alpha-L-iduronidase; IQR: inter-quartile range; MPS IH: mucopolysaccharidosis I, Hurler syndrome; NDI: National Death Index; NR: not reported; SD: standard deviation; US: United States.



## **Study Reference Wyffels 2017**

The frequency of CTS was normalised by comparing those who underwent surgery within 5 years of HCT (due to differences in the mean follow-up time between group 1 (15 years) and group 2 (5 years). The cumulative incidence function and two-sided log-rank test were used to evaluate time from HCT to CTS surgery. Two-sided unequal variance t-tests were used to compare NCS measurements between groups and from pre- to post-surgical state.

### Demographic characteristics



**Group 1 (comparator [n=43]): HCT**; patients transplanted prior to 2003 had been treated with HCT alone.

Primary outcome

**Outcomes Measured** 

 **Intervention** 

The incidence of CTS in HS children treated with HCT + ERT compared with a historical cohort under-going HCT alone. CTS diagnosed by nerve conduction speed measurements (pre- and post-surgery): A positive study for CTS would typically be concluded if the median/ulnar peak latency (sensory or motor) constituted a 200% increase, or the corresponding median/ulnar conduction velocity was slowed to 70% or less, as correlated to their clinical findings by the hand specialist.

Secondary outcomes

The effect of age at transplant, graft type, and sex on the incidence of CTS.


**Abbreviations**: A.V.H.: evaluation by hand surgery; ERT: enzyme replacement therapy; CTS: carpal tunnel syndrome; HCT: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; HS: Hurler syndrome; NA: not applicable; NCS: nerve conduction study; NR: not reported; US: United States.

### Appraisal for quality and risk of bias

Quality assessments of included studies are reported below.

Question	<b>Guideline Criteria for MPS I Studies</b>	Literature-Recommended Criteria
<b>PARTICIPANT SELECTION</b>		
Was a consecutive or random sample of newborns enrolled?	Yes if all newborns (or a random sample of patients) within the study period were included No if patients were selected in a different way, e.g. by referral or convenience sample Unclear if all screened newborns are enrolled but it is not specified if the screening test is routinely administered at the study site	A study should ideally enrol all consecutive, or a random sample of, eligible patients – otherwise there is potential for bias. Studies that make inappropriate exclusions, e.g. excluding "difficult to diagnose" patients, may result in overoptimistic estimates of diagnostic accuracy
Was a case-control design avoided?	Yes if the study was a prospective or retrospective cohort study No if cases of MPS I were matched to controls	Studies enrolling patients with known disease and a control group without the condition may exaggerate diagnostic accuracy
Did the study avoid inappropriate exclusions?	Yes if all newborns were included, or if exclusions were appropriate and unlikely to lead to bias No if any group within the screening population was systematically excluded Unclear if it is unclear if exclusions were made or exclusions were made but it is unclear if these were appropriate	Exclusion of patients with "red flags" for the target condition, who may be easier to diagnose, may lead to underestimation of diagnostic accuracy
Could the selection of newborns have introduced bias?	Answered based on the previous questions in this domain	If all signalling questions for a domain are answered "yes" then risk of bias can be judged "low". If any signalling question is answered "no" this flags the potential for bias
Is there concern that the included newborns do not match the review question?	Low if patients overall are newborn babies representative of the screening population (i.e. similar to the newborn population in the UK) High if patients overall are not representative of the screening population, such as newborns in families known to be affected by MPS I or demographically dissimilar to the UK population Unclear if it is unclear whether the population is similar to the UK newborn population	There may be concerns regarding applicability if patients included in the study differ, compared to those targeted by the review question, in terms of severity of the target condition, demographic features, presence of differential diagnosis or co-morbidity, setting of the study and previous testing protocols
<b>INDEX TESTS</b>		
Were the index test results interpreted without knowledge of the reference standard?	Yes if screening results were interpreted before the diagnosis was confirmed No if screening results were only examined after the diagnosis was confirmed Unclear if it is unclear if screening results were interpreted before or after the diagnosis was confirmed	This item is similar to "blinding" in intervention studies. Interpretation of index test results may be influenced by knowledge of the reference standard
If a threshold was used, was it pre-specified?	Yes if the criteria used to diagnose MPS I were explicitly stated, well-defined, and specified before the study No if criteria were not stated, were insufficiently well-defined, were specified retrospectively or adjusted during the study	Selecting the test threshold to optimise sensitivity and/or specificity may lead to overoptimistic estimates of test performance, which is likely to be poorer in an independent sample of patients in whom the same threshold is used

**Table 17. Guidance for QUADAS-2 quality assessment of studies extracted for question 1** 



**Could the participant flow have introduced bias?** 

**No** if newborns who underwent the index test all had the same chance of being diagnosed positive/negative if they had/not had MPS I

**Yes** if newborns received different reference standards or a significant proportion were removed from the analysis **Unclear** if it is unclear whether newborns all had the same chance of being diagnosed as having or not having MPS I

If all signalling questions for a domain are answered "yes" then risk of bias can be judged "low". If any signalling question is answered "no" this flags the potential for bias

### **Table 18. Quality assessment of studies included for question 1**



#### **Table 19. Guidance for ROBINS-1 quality assessment of studies extracted for question 2**





1.8 If Y/PY to 1.7: Were confounding domains that were adjusted for measured validly and reliably by the variables available in this study?

NA/Y/PY/PN/N/NI















## **Table 20. Quality assessment of studies included for question 2**











## Appendix 6 – UK NSC reporting checklist for evidence summaries

All items on the UK NSC Reporting Checklist for Evidence Summaries have been addressed in this report. A summary of the checklist, along with the page or pages where each item can be found in this report, is presented in Table 21.

	<b>Section</b>	<b>Item</b>	Page no.
$\mathbf{1}$ .	<b>TITLE AND SUMMARIES</b>		
1.1	Title sheet	Identify the review as a UK NSC evidence summary.	Title page
$1.2$	Plain English summary	Plain English description of the executive summary.	5
1.3	Executive summary	Structured overview of the whole report. To include: the purpose/aim of the review; background; previous recommendations; findings and gaps in the evidence; recommendations on the screening that can or cannot be made on the basis of the review.	$6 - 9$
2.		<b>INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH</b>	
2.1	Background and objectives	Background - Current policy context and rationale for the current review – for example, reference to details of previous reviews, basis for current recommendation, recommendations made, gaps identified, drivers for new reviews	$10 - 18$
		Objectives - What are the questions the current evidence summary intends to answer? – statement of the key questions for the current evidence summary, criteria they address, and number of studies included per question, description of the overall results of the literature search.	

**Table 21. UK NSC reporting checklist for evidence summaries** 





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