

Intradiscal electrothermal therapy cost-effective

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(HealthDay)—For patients with discogenic low back pain, intradiscal

electrothermal therapy (IDET) is an effective and cost-effective treatment alternative to circumferential lumbar fusion with femoral ring allograft (FRA), according to a study published online Sept. 12 in *PAIN Practice*.

Eugena Stamuli, from University of York in the United Kingdom, and colleagues evaluated the cost-effectiveness of IDET relative to circumferential lumbar fusion with FRA for [patients](#) with discogenic [low back pain](#) (85 and 37 participants, respectively). Patients were followed for 24 months.

The researchers found that both treatments produced statistically significant improvements in outcome at 24-month follow-up. Costs were significantly lower with IDET as a result of shorter mean procedure time (377.4 minutes versus 49.9 minutes) and length of stay (7.0 versus 1.2 days).

"At a threshold of £20,000 per QALY, the probability that IDET is cost-effective is high," the authors write.

The study was funded by Smith & Nephew.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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