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Date : 07 December 2021

YBhg. Dato' Dr. Badrul Shah Badaruddin
President
Malaysian Society for Hip and Knee Surgeons
National Orthopaedics Centre of Excellence in Research & Learning (NOCERAL)
Department of Orthopaedics Surgery
Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya
50603 KUALA LUMPUR.

Dear YBhg. Dato',

INSURANCE REJECTION FOR SCAFFOLD BASED TREATMENT IN MANAGEMENT OF CARTILAGE INJURY

With kind reference to the above matter and your letter regarding frequent rejection from insurance company for the treatment of patients with cartilage injury with using biological scaffold.

2. We take note that biological scaffold is designed to repair traumatic or arthrosis chondropathy. It aims to regenerate cartilage, reduce pain and delay joint replacement where possible especially for young patients. Cartilage treatment scaffold can provide their dimensional structure for cartilage cells and be in favor of cell adhesion and proliferation. They mediate cell-cell signaling and interaction and have been clinically proven and can generate hyaline like cartilage.

3. Based on information from Malaysian Health Technology Assessment Section (MaHTAS), Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, there were limited short term evidence on scaffold based treatment for cartilage injury. The scaffold used in the studies were different types and outcome measurement used were also different. Nevertheless, **the available evidence showed patients with cartilage injury have good outcome with the scaffold based treatment**.

4. Hence, as recommended by Malaysian Society for Hip and Knee Surgeons (MSHKS) the scaffold based cartilage treatment are indicated for the following:

4.1 To support hyaline like cartilage regeneration in the knee, ankle and hip;

4.2 Patients aged 15 to 60 years with cartilage defects of International Cartilage Repair Society (ICRS) grade III and IV diagnosed clinically by history, examination, radiograph, MRI and diagnostic arthroscopy;

4.3 The size of the cartilage defect upto 25cm^2 for single or multiple defects. The defects should be caused by trauma such as a fall or from sports

related injury, patients suffering from osteochondritis dissecans or osteonecrosis and secondary osteoarthritis caused by trauma; and

4.4 It should not be used in patients with overt osteoarthritis, joint malalignment or ligamentous instabilities.

5. We would like to advice all medical practitioners who are using scaffold in the treatment of cartilage injury to strictly abide to the recommendation by MSHKS as mentioned in para 4.

Thank you.

"WAWASAN KEMAKMURAN BERSAMA 2030"

"BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA"

Yours sincerely,

(DR. MOHD AZMAN BIN YACOB P.S.K)
(MMC: 36445, NSR: 134815)
Director
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Hs/mcofee/dec/2021

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