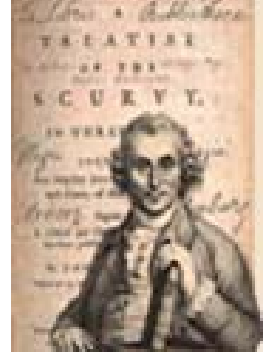


**Prostate Cancer – Priority Setting  
Partnership – Stakeholder Meeting**

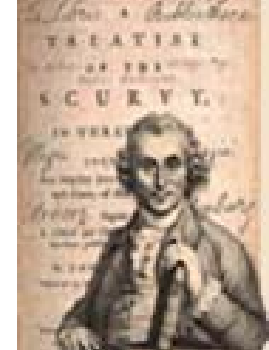


# **Collecting and publishing treatment uncertainties'**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Mark Fenton**

**Editor – Database of Uncertainties of the Effects of  
Treatments (DUETs)**



# DUETs



UK DUETs: *A resource to make uncertainties explicit and to help prioritise new research*

## Why is it important to be explicit about treatment uncertainties?

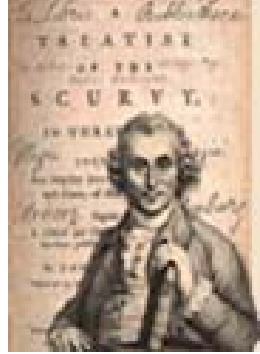
People have suffered and died unnecessarily because uncertainties about the effects of treatments have not been addressed in research ([Confronting Therapeutic Uncertainty](#); [Well informed uncertainties about the effects of treatments](#)). Patients and the public have a right to expect that research funders, researchers and health professionals will identify uncertainties about whether treatments are doing more harm than good, and should expect them to organise the research needed to reduce the most important of these uncertainties. Indeed, the General Medical Council's advice to doctors is that they "must work with colleagues and patients...to help resolve uncertainties about the effects of treatments" ([Good Medical Practice, para 14f, page 13](#)).

## What is UK DUETs?

The UK Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (UK DUETs) has been established in the UK to publish uncertainties about the effects of treatment which cannot currently be answered by referring to reliable up-to-date systematic reviews of existing research evidence. Systematic reviews are based on worldwide searches for reliable, relevant evidence, analysed using methods to reduce biases and the play of chance. More detailed information about systematic reviews and fair tests of the effects of medical treatments is available in the [James Lind Library](#).

UK DUETs draws on three main sources to identify uncertainties about the effects of treatments

- patients', carers' and clinicians' questions about the effects of treatments
- research recommendations in reports of systematic reviews and clinical guidelines
- ongoing research, both systematic reviews in preparation and new 'primary' studies

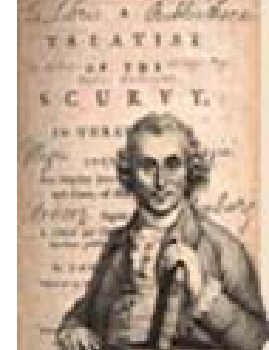


# Uncertainty:

No up-to-date systematic reviews exist

**OR**

Up-to-date systematic reviews show that  
uncertainty exists



# Prostrate Cancer Uncertainties'

From patients (1)	From carers (0)	From professionals (0)	Research recommendations (1)	Ongoing research (0)
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page: 1 of 1 < Previous | Next >

**Safety of laterally placed and laterally directed multi-needle core biopsy for diagnosing prostate cancer**  
Publication Type: Known Uncertainty      Publication Date: 24 Mar 2009

[View detail](#)

[Select all](#) | [Deselect all](#) | [Select all in tab](#) | [Select all in page](#) | [Export](#) as  CSV or  Excel

page: 1 of 1 < Previous | Next >

## Safety of laterally placed and laterally directed multi-needle core biopsy for diagnosing prostate cancer

<b>Record type</b>	Uncertainties identified from patients' questions
<b>Source</b>	DUETs Editorial team
<b>Why is there uncertainty?</b>	Reliable up-to-date systematic reviews have revealed important continuing uncertainties about treatment effects
<b>Original uncertainty</b>	<a href="#">View original uncertainty</a>
<b>References to reliable up-to-date systematic reviews:</b>	Ilic D, O'Connor D, Green S, Wilt T. Screening for prostate cancer. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2006, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD004720. DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD004720.pub2">10.1002/14651858.CD004720.pub2</a> .
<b>What is needed?</b>	Further research
<b>Systematic reviews that need updating or extending</b>	<i>None identified</i>
<b>Systematic reviews in preparation</b>	<i>None identified</i>
<b>Ongoing controlled trials</b>	<i>None identified</i>

### Classification

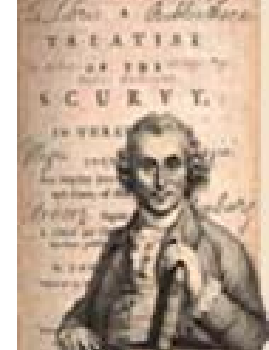
<b>Which health conditions?</b>	<a href="#">Cancer</a> > <a href="#">Prostate cancer</a>
<b>What is person's age?</b>	Adult
<b>Which types of treatments?</b>	Devices
<b>Which outcomes?</b>	Extra-capsular extrusion of prostate cancer cells
<b>The following specialist collections also reference this resource</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o <a href="#">Cancer</a></li></ul>

Record ID: 310129

Publication date: 24 Mar 2009

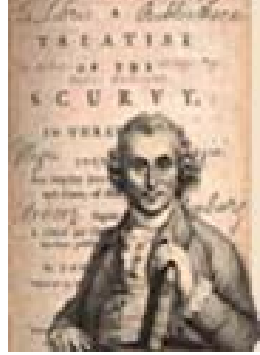
Last reviewed date:

Publication type: [Known Uncertainty](#)



# Harvesting Uncertainties

- Sources of uncertainties: **low hanging fruit!**
  - Specialist Collections Annual Evidence Updates (AEUs)
  - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)
  - BMJ Clinical Evidence
  - Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)
  - Health Technology Assessments (HTAs)
  - National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidance (NICE)
  - Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)
  - Royal College guidance



# Harvesting Uncertainties

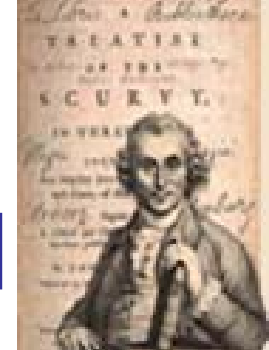
- Surveys of patients, carers and clinicians
  - Not so low hanging!



# TOM SAWYER'S FENCE

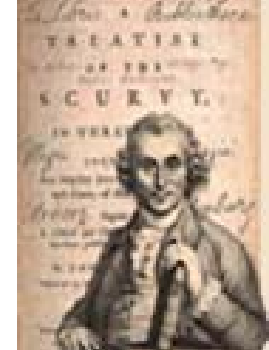
HERE STOOD THE BOARD  
FENCE WHICH TOM SAWYER  
PERSUADED HIS GANG TO  
PAY HIM FOR THE PRIVILEGE  
OF WHITEWASHING. TOM  
SAT BY AND SAW THAT IT  
WAS WELL DONE.





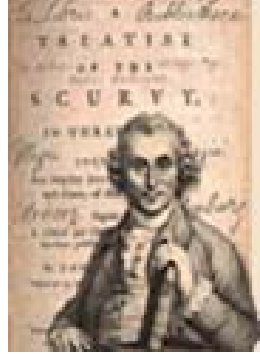
# Harvesting Patient, Carer and Clinician uncertainties

- Three Priority Setting Partnerships (PSPs) have thus far undertaken this:
  - Asthma
  - Urinary Incontinence
  - Schizophrenia
    - » Epilepsy have surveyed and are at the stage of collation and data entry



# Problems encountered

- Greater need for resources to:
  - undertake surveys
  - collate uncertainties
  - check uncertainties for being ‘true’
  - data entry – may require re-phrasing, if needs re-phrasing, developing a taxonomy if done by more than one person
  - data entry requires Information Specialist searching and critical appraisal skills

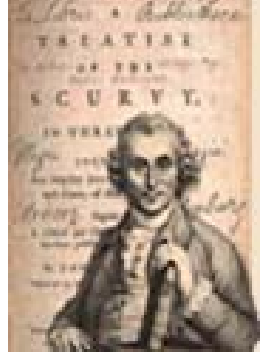


# Prostrate Cancer Uncertainties'

## Our experiences of adding DUETs

- Start with the 'low hanging fruit'
- Use of data collection form (mirrors fields in database)
- Spread the word

# DUETS



<http://www.library.nhs.uk/DUETS/>