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## **Purpose and Scope**

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This resource provides some information regarding current opinion into minimal incision techniques, minimum incision surgery, or minimally invasive surgery (MIS) that does not involve either direct vision of the operative site with the eye, a camera or a microscope.

## **Background**

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The College recognises MIS is practised by a limited number of surgeons. There is a lack of evidence-based literature on the subject of MIS, however the College acknowledges there may be practitioners who are interested in developing this method of surgery.

## **Body of Resource**

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The College supports the the systematic identification and synthesis of the best available scientific evidence. Levels of evidence, quality of evidence, relevance of evidence and strength of evidence are to be considered. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recounts that the need for guidelines to encourage health professionals to improve their treatment practices and improve patient and community access to information about treatment options is a salient feature of their guidelines.

The College advocates the use of the NHMRC guidelines in contributing to the development, evaluation and implementation of clinical practice guidelines where relevant. These were last updated in 1999.

The NHMRC does not have specific guidelines for MIS. The College advocates the recommendations made by the Council of the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (BOFAS) and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) with regard to MIS.

The guidelines formulated by BOFAS and the NICE recommend that surgeons are suitably trained in MIS techniques, use appropriate equipment and fully inform their patients of the novel and possibly experimental nature of MIS without evidence of long-term results. Additionally it is suggested that an audit process be implemented for patients treated by MIS and surgeons be prepared to undergo peer review of their MIS results.



**Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons**

**Resource: Minimal Incision Techniques**

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## **Relevant Documents**

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<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/IP%20782%20Overview%20for%20web%20201009.pdf>

<http://www.bofas.org.uk/PublicArea/LatestNews/NewsDetails/tabid/187/ArticleId/2/MInimally-Invasive-Hallux-Valgus-Surgery.aspx>

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