

Protocol

Cryosurgical Ablation of Miscellaneous Solid Tumors Other Than Liver, Prostate, or Dermatologic Tumors

(70192)

Medical Benefit		Effective Date: 01/01/14	Next Review Date: 09/17
Preauthorization	No	Review Dates: 02/07, 02/08, 03/09, 01/10, 03/10, 09/10, 09/11, 09/12, 09/13, 09/14, 09/15, 09/16	

Preauthorization is not required.

The following protocol contains medical necessity criteria that apply for this service. The criteria are also applicable to services provided in the local Medicare Advantage operating area for those members, unless separate Medicare Advantage criteria are indicated. If the criteria are not met, reimbursement will be denied and the patient cannot be billed. Please note that payment for covered services is subject to eligibility and the limitations noted in the patient's contract at the time the services are rendered.

Populations	Interventions	Comparators	Outcomes
Individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With solid tumors of the breast, lung, pancreas or kidney	Interventions of interest are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cryosurgical ablation	Comparators of interest are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgical resection• Other ablative techniques• No intervention	Relevant outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall survival• Disease-specific survival• Quality of life• Treatment-related morbidity

Description

Cryosurgical ablation (hereafter referred to as cryosurgery or cryoablation) involves freezing of target tissues, most often by inserting into the tumor a probe through which coolant is circulated. Cryosurgery may be performed as an open surgical technique or as a closed procedure under laparoscopic or ultrasound guidance.

Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have solid tumors of the breast, lung, pancreas, or kidney who receive cryosurgical ablation, the evidence includes nonrandomized comparative studies, case series, and systematic reviews of these nonrandomized studies. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. There is a lack of randomized controlled trials and high-quality comparative studies to determine the efficacy and comparative effectiveness of cryoablation. The largest amount of evidence is for renal cell carcinoma in select patients, i.e., those with small tumors who are not surgical candidates or who have baseline renal insufficiency such that standard surgical procedures would impair their kidney function. Cryoablation results in short-term tumor control and less morbidity than surgical resection, but long-term outcomes may be inferior to surgery. For other indications, there is less evidence, with single-arm series reporting high rates of local control. Due to the lack of prospective controlled trials, it is difficult to draw conclusions whether cryoablation improves outcomes for any indication better than alternative treatments. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Policy

Cryosurgical ablation may be considered **medically necessary** to treat localized renal cell carcinoma that is no

more than four cm in size when either of the following criteria is met:

- Preservation of kidney function is necessary (i.e., the patient has one kidney or renal insufficiency defined by a glomerular filtration rate [GFR] of less than 60 mL/min/m²) and standard surgical approach (i.e., resection of renal tissue) is likely to substantially worsen kidney function; or
- Patient is not considered a surgical candidate.

Cryosurgical ablation is considered **investigational** as a treatment of benign or malignant tumors of the breast, lung, pancreas or other solid tumors or metastasis outside the liver and prostate, and to treat renal cell carcinomas in patients who are surgical candidates.

Background

The hypothesized advantages of cryosurgery include improved local control and benefits common to any minimally invasive procedure (e.g., preserving normal organ tissue, decreasing morbidity, decreasing length of hospitalization). Potential complications of cryosurgery include those caused by hypothermic damage to normal tissue adjacent to the tumor, structural damage along the probe track, and secondary tumors, if cancerous cells are seeded during probe removal.

Cryosurgical treatment of various tumors including renal cell carcinoma (RCC), malignant and benign breast disease, pancreatic cancer, and lung cancer has been reported in the literature.

Breast Tumors

Early stage primary breast cancers are treated surgically. The selection of lumpectomy, modified radical mastectomy, or another approach is balanced against the patient's desire for breast conservation, the need for tumor-free margins in resected tissue, and the patient's age, hormone receptor status, and other factors. Adjuvant radiotherapy decreases local recurrences, particularly for those who select lumpectomy. Adjuvant hormonal therapy and/or chemotherapy are added, depending on presence and number of involved nodes, hormone receptor status, and other factors. Treatment of metastatic disease includes surgery to remove the primary lesion and combination chemotherapy.

Fibroadenomas are common benign tumors of the breast that can either present as a palpable mass or a mammographic abnormality. These benign tumors are frequently surgically excised to rule out a malignancy.

Lung Tumors

Early stage lung tumors are typically treated surgically. Patients with early-stage lung cancer who are not surgical candidates may be candidates for radiation treatment with curative intent. Cryoablation is being investigated in patients who are medically inoperable, with small primary lung cancers or lung metastases. Patients with more advanced local disease or metastatic disease may undergo chemotherapy with radiation following resection. This is rarely curative but rather seeks to retard tumor growth or palliate symptoms.

Pancreatic Cancer

Pancreatic cancer is a relatively rare solid tumor that occurs almost exclusively in adults and is almost always fatal. Surgical resection of tumors contained entirely within the pancreas is currently the only potentially curative treatment. However, the nature of the cancer is such that few tumors are found at such an early and potentially curable stage. Patients with more advanced local disease or metastatic disease may undergo chemotherapy with radiation following resection. This is rarely curative but rather seeks to retard tumor growth or palliate symptoms.

Renal Cell Carcinomas

Localized RCC is treated by radical nephrectomy or nephron-sparing surgery. Prognosis drops precipitously if the tumor extends outside the kidney capsule, because chemotherapy is relatively ineffective against metastatic RCC.

Regulatory Status

There are several cryoablation devices cleared for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration through the 510(k) process for use in open, minimally invasive or endoscopic surgical procedures in the areas of general surgery, urology, gynecology, oncology, neurology, dermatology, proctology, thoracic surgery and ear; nose; and throat. Examples include:

- Cryocare® Surgical System (Endocare);
- CryoGen Cryosurgical System (Cryosurgical Inc.);
- CryoHit® (Galil Medical) for the treatment of breast fibroadenoma;
- SeedNet™ System (Galil Medical); and
- Visica® System (Sanarus Medical).

FDA product code: GEH.

Related Protocols

Cryosurgical Ablation of Primary or Metastatic Liver Tumors

Radiofrequency Ablation of Miscellaneous Solid Tumors Excluding Liver Tumors

Radiofrequency Ablation of Primary or Metastatic Liver Tumors

Whole Gland Cryoablation of Prostate Cancer

Services that are the subject of a clinical trial do not meet our Technology Assessment Protocol criteria and are considered investigational. *For explanation of experimental and investigational, please refer to the Technology Assessment Protocol.*

It is expected that only appropriate and medically necessary services will be rendered. We reserve the right to conduct prepayment and postpayment reviews to assess the medical appropriateness of the above-referenced procedures. **Some of this protocol may not pertain to the patients you provide care to, as it may relate to products that are not available in your geographic area.**

References

We are not responsible for the continuing viability of web site addresses that may be listed in any references below.

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