Medical Policy: Canaloplasty and Viscocanalostomy (Commercial)

**Definitions**

**Viscocanalostomy and Canaloplasty**

Viscocanalostomy and canaloplasty are non-penetrating surgical procedures proposed for the treatment of primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) in an attempt to preclude some of the complications associated with trabeculectomy, the gold standard surgery. Intraocular pressure (IOP) is the most crucial factor in controlling glaucoma and preventing irreversible nerve damage resulting in blindness.

Canaloplasty uses the natural drainage channel of the eye to lower the pressure by stretching the meshwork filter. It is this tissue filter that limits the flow of fluid making the pressure too high and causing vision loss.
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Viscocanalostomy is similar to canaloplasty in that it attempts to open up the Schlemm’s canal, but instead of using a cannula and thread, the viscocanaloplasty uses an injection of a viscous, biocompatible polymer to partly open the canal.

Related Medical Guidelines
Glaucoma Surgery

Guideline
Canaloplasty is considered medically necessary for the treatment of primary open-angle glaucoma to reduce IOP.

Exclusions and Limitations:
Canaloplasty is not considered medically necessary for all other indications (e.g., for use in glaucoma gene therapy) due to insufficient evidence of therapeutic value in the peer reviewed literature.

Viscocanalostomy (including phacoviscocanalostomy) is not considered medically necessary for glaucoma or any other indication due to insufficient evidence of therapeutic value in the peer reviewed literature. Viscocanalostomy is not as effective as trabeculectomy in reducing IOP.

Applicable Coding
To access the codes, please download the policy to your computer, and click on the paperclip icon within the policy

Applicable CPT and Diagnosis Codes

References


Cillino S, Di Pace F, Casuccio A, Lodato G. Deep sclerectomy versus punch trabeculectomy: effect of
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Specialty matched clinical peer review.


Revision history

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>REVISION</th>
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<td>04/10/2020</td>
<td>Annual review. No changes to policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/05/2020</td>
<td>Reformatted and reorganized policy, transferred content to new template</td>
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