Cryosurgical Radiofrequency Ablation for Renal Tumors (Commercial)

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Definitions

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<tr>
<th>Cryoablation</th>
<th>Also known as cryosurgery or cryotherapy, cryoablation is a technique of ablating cells using liquid nitrogen or argon gas that is circulated through a hollow probe placed in direct contact with the tumor. An ice crystal formation around the probe tip freezes nearby cells, which destroys them. The ablated tissue is then absorbed by the body.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)</td>
<td>A technique of heating cells using a small needle electrode placed directly into a tumor. High frequency radio waves heat the tumor and cause local necrosis. The dead cells become scar tissue and eventually shrink.</td>
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Medical Policy: Cryosurgical Radiofrequency Ablation for Renal Tumors (Commercial)

Guideline
Members with small undefined renal lesions (≤ 4 cm in diameter) that are suspected to be malignant, or with malignant potential, are eligible for coverage of either cryoablation or RFA by any modality (eg laparoscopically or percutaneously) when either of the following criteria is met:

1. Medically or surgically inoperable tumor(s).
2. Poor candidacy for standard treatments (i.e., nephrectomy).

Limitations/Exclusions
Neither cryoablation nor RFA is considered medically necessary for members able to undergo surgical resection.

Coding Criteria:
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


Specialty-matched clinical peer review.

Revision history

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>REVISION</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/2019</td>
<td>• Reformatted and reorganized policy, transferred content to new template</td>
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