Medical Policy:

Cryosurgery for Liver Tumors

POLICY NUMBER	LAST REVIEW
MG.MM.SU.13bc12	November 12, 2021

Definitions

Cryosurgery (also known as cryosurgical ablation) is a means for the surgical destruction of a liver tumor using a process of freeze-thaw cycles that kill tumors through physiochemical change and obliteration of small blood vessels. This method is often used in addition to surgical resection.

Guideline

Members with primary hepatocellular or metastatic tumors (i.e. colorectal, neuroendocrine [NET]) that are not amenable to surgical resection alone are eligible for coverage of cryosurgery when all of the following clinical criteria are met:

1. Greatest tumor dimension ≤ 10 cm
2. No uncontrolled extrahepatic malignancies
3. Liver volume replacement by tumor < 40%

Limitations and Exclusions

The cryosurgical device used must be FDA-approved for the indications present.

In the case of carcinomas metastatic to the liver, the following qualifying conditions for coverage must be met:

1. The primary extrahepatic cancer site must be effectively controlled.
2. The metastatic lesions must be limited to the liver and not present in other organs.
3. The patient must have ≤ 5 metastatic sites
4. Lesions should be ≤ 10 cm

Procedure Codes

47371	Laparoscopy, surgical, ablation of one or more liver tumor(s); cryosurgical
47381	Ablation, open, of one or more liver tumor(s); cryosurgical
76940	Ultrasound guidance for, and monitoring of, parenchymal tissue ablation
47383	Ablation, 1 or more liver tumor(s), percutaneous, cryoablation
77013	Computed tomography guidance for, and monitoring of, parenchymal tissue ablation
77022	Magnetic resonance guidance for, and monitoring of, parenchymal tissue ablation

ICD-10 Diagnoses

C7A.1	Malignant poorly differentiated neuroendocrine tumors
C7A.8	Other malignant neuroendocrine tumors
C18.0	Malignant neoplasm of cecum
C18.1	Malignant neoplasm of appendix
C18.2	Malignant neoplasm of ascending colon
C18.3	Malignant neoplasm of hepatic flexure
C18.4	Malignant neoplasm of transverse colon
C18.5	Malignant neoplasm of splenic flexure
C18.6	Malignant neoplasm of descending colon
C18.7	Malignant neoplasm of sigmoid colon
C18.8	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of colon
C18.9	Malignant neoplasm of colon, unspecified
C22.0	Liver cell carcinoma
C22.2	Hepatoblastoma
C22.3	Angiosarcoma of liver
C22.4	Other sarcomas of liver
C22.7	Other specified carcinomas of liver
C22.8	Malignant neoplasm of liver, primary, unspecified as to type
C78.7	Secondary malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile duct

References

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Specialty-matched clinical peer review.

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Revision History

Oct. 19, 2020	ConnectiCare adopts the clinical criteria of its parent corporation EmblemHealth Removed primary treatment as a covered indication