Cytotoxic Leukocyte Testing

**Description:**

The cytotoxic leukocyte test (also known as Bryan’s Test, leukocytotoxicity test, leukocytic food allergy test, cytotoxic test, metabolic intolerance test, or sensitivity testing) involves adding a food allergen to a blood sample. The sample is then examined under a microscope at various intervals to verify if the white blood cells (leukocytes) have changed shape or were destroyed. The theory is that any change in the blood cells is a sign of allergy to the particular food.

Cytotoxic leukocyte testing has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. There is insufficient evidence in the published, peer-reviewed, scientific literature to support the use of cytotoxic leukocyte testing in the diagnosis and treatment of allergies.

**Medical Criteria:**

Cytotoxic leukocyte testing is considered **not medically necessary** as there is insufficient evidence in published, peer-reviewed literature to support its use.

**Policy:**

Cytotoxic leukocyte testing is considered **not medically necessary** as there is insufficient evidence in published, peer-reviewed literature to support its use.

**Coverage:**

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate member certificate, subscriber agreements, or BlueCHiP for Rite Care contract for applicable "Not Medically Necessary Services."

**Codes:**

There is no specific CPT code regarding cytotoxic leukocyte testing.

**Also Known As:**

Bryan’s Test  
Leukocytotoxicity test  
Leukocytic food allergy test  
Cytotoxic test  
Metabolic intolerance test  
Sensitivity testing

**Related Topics:**

Not applicable.

**Published:**

Policy Update, May 2007  
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Provider Update, June 2009
References:


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