

Medical Coverage Policies

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Electron Beam Computed Tomography and Cororary Angiography

EFFECTIVE DATE	09/01/2000	LAST UPDATED	05/17/2007
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Description:

Electron beam computed tomography (EBCT) scanning is a simple, noninvasive test that is used to detect calcium buildup in the lining of arteries. Because it is much faster than standard computed tomography scanning, EBCT has been investigated as a technique to detect coronary artery calcification.

The scan has a high rate of false-positive results. Additional research is needed as current studies have not shown that EBCT is more effective than other noninvasive tests.

Cororary angiography (CTA) is administered by a cardiologist trained in radiology, or by a radiologist. A wire guide and catheter uses a contrast injection and a series of x-rays to view the coronary arteries. Although the procedure is typically performed in the femoral artery, the catheter may also be placed in the left ventricle to examine valves in the heart.

Medical criteria:

Not applicable

Policy:

The use of EBCT and CTA in the diagnosis of coronary disease is considered *investigational* as current evidence does not suggest it is more effective than other testing.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate member certificate/subscriber agreement/Rlte Care contract for applicable diagnostic imaging/radiology coverage/benefits.

Coding:

0144T
0145T
0146T
0147T
0148T
0149T

S8092

Also known as:

Ultrafast CT
Cine computed X-ray tomography
Rapid acquisition X-ray computed tomography
High-speed computed X-ray tomography

Related topics:

Not applicable

Published:

Policy Update, August 2005
Policy Update, June 2006
Policy Update, July 2007

References:

American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Expert Consensus Document on Electron-Beam Computed Tomography for the Diagnosis and Prognosis of Coronary Artery Disease
<http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/full/102/1/126> accessed 3/12/07

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