Medical Coverage Policies

Electron Beam Computed Tomography and Coronary Angiography

**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.

Coronary 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/Rite 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


Mozzaffarian D. Electron-Beam COmputed Tomography for Coronary Calcium A Useful Test to Screen for Coronary Heart Disease? JAMA;December 14 2005294:22:2897-2900.

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