Medical Policy

Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan

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Category: Medicine

Title: Transcoronary Ablation of Septal Hypertrophy (TASH)

Procedure Code(s): 0024T

Description / Background

Hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (HOCM) is a genetic condition that is caused by an excessive growth of the septum, the muscle that separates the upper and lower chambers of the heart. This overgrowth of tissue can obstruct the blood flow from the left ventricle through the aorta to the rest of the body. The resultant ventricular outflow tract obstruction can produce symptoms including, dyspnea, angina pectoris, syncope, and sudden death. Beta-adrenergic antagonists and calcium channel blockers are used as an initial intervention. If patients remain symptomatic with medical treatment, myotomy/myectomy is considered. This procedure is reserved for the most severely ill patients with large pressure gradients. It involves a surgical removal of a portion of the hypertrophied ventricular septum, and is considered the gold standard for treatment of patients with symptomatic severe outflow gradient who do not respond to conservative treatment.

An alternative to surgery is trans-coronary ablation of septal hypertrophy (TASH). This procedure is also known as percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation (PTSMA), and Alcohol Ablation for hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy. It is an infusion of pure alcohol (96%) through an angioplasty catheter into the most proximally situated septal branches of the left anterior descending coronary artery, inducing an artificial myocardial infarction. The infarction causes the septal tissue to atrophy and die resulting in a decrease of obstruction of flow from the left ventricle. The septal bulge shrinks, which widens the outflow tract from the left ventricle. This results in reduction of symptoms, increased exercise ability and positive therapeutic changes which remain stable over time.

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CPT/HCPCS Level II Codes and Description

0024T Non-surgical septal reduction therapy (e.g., alcohol ablation) for hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy; with coronary arteriograms, with or without temporary pacer

ICD-9 Codes or Diagnoses and Description

Hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy

Medical Policy Statement

Trans-coronary ablation of septal hypertrophy is considered a medically established procedure for use in patients with severe symptomatic hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy HOCM classified by the New York Heart Association (NYHA) cardiac functional status rating system as:

- Class III: Marked limitation – Less than ordinary activity causes symptoms
- Class IV: Inability to carry out any physical activity – Symptoms present at rest

Rationale

The safety and effectiveness of this procedure has been established. It may be considered a useful therapeutic option when indicated for severe symptomatic HOCM.

Medical Policy Position Summary (Non-clinical summary statement for customer use)

The safety and effectiveness of this procedure has been established. It may be considered a useful therapeutic option when indicated for severe symptomatic HOCM.

Inclusive and Exclusive Clinical Criteria (e.g., Clinical-based inclusions/exclusions, Preauthorization, Individual Consideration)

Patient selection criteria includes:

- Severe outflow gradients (>50 mm Hg under basal conditions)
- Symptomatic heart failure (New York Heart Association(NYHA) functional rating system Class III or IV) that is unresponsive to medical therapy

Related Policies

N/A

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Medicare Information

There is no current Medicare national policy for Trans-Coronary Ablation of Septal Hypertrophy

(The above Medicare information is current as of the review date for this policy. However, since Medicare coverage issues and policies may be updated or revised by Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services (CMS, formerly HCFA) on a frequent basis, the most current information may not be contained in this document. For the most current information, you should contact an official source.

References

- Gietzen, F.H. et all; " Acute and long-term results after transcoronary ablation of septal hypertrophy (TASH)"; European Heart Journal; 1999; Vol. 20; Issue 18; 1342-1354
- Seggewiss H, et all; "Percutaneous Transluminal Septal Ablation in Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy"; Thoracic Cardiovascular Surgery; 1999; Vol 47; 94-100
- Lakkis, Nasser M. et all; "Echography – Guided Ethanol Septal Reduction for Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy"; Circulation; October 27, 1998; Vol 17; 1750-5
- Faber, L. et all; "Percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation for hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy: long term follow up of the first series of 25 patients"; British Cardiac Society; March 2000; Vol. 83; No. 3; 326-31
- Seggewiss, Hubert, MD; et all; Percutaneous Transluminal Septal Myocardial Ablation in Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy: Acute Results and 3-Month Follow-Up in 25 Patients"; JACC; February 1998; Vol 31; No. 2; 252-8

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Joint BCBSM/BCN Medical Policy History

Date	Rationale
11/22/02	Joint policy established
11/18/03	Policy retired per direction of JUMP committee

This is an established policy and no longer subject to routine review.

Pre-Consolidation Medical Policy History

Original Policy Date		Comments
BCN	N/A	Revised: N/A
BCBSM	5/10/01	Revised: N/A

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