



MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINES
SECTION: SURGERY

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/01/17
LAST REVIEW DATE: 08/21/18
LAST CRITERIA REVISION DATE:
ARCHIVE DATE:

LASER INTERSTITIAL THERMAL THERAPY (LITT)

Non-Discrimination Statement and Multi-Language Interpreter Services information are located at the end of this document.

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Medical Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as "Description" defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as "Criteria" defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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LASER INTERSTITIAL THERMAL THERAPY (LITT) (cont.)

Description:

Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy (LITT) is a minimally invasive surgical option that has been investigated to treat areas hard to reach with conventional surgery. LITT is performed by implanting a laser catheter into the tissue and heating it to temperatures high enough to destroy the lesion. The catheter is implanted using advanced computer imaging techniques. The laser is guided through the catheter with real-time MRI, allowing thermal energy delivery only to the unwanted tissue. FDA approved devices include NeuroBlate® and Visualase®.

Criteria:

- Laser interstitial thermal therapy is considered ***experimental or investigational*** based upon:
1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
 2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
 3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
 4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

These indications include, *but are not limited to:*

- Brain tumors
- Epilepsy
- Gliomas
- Radiation necrosis

Resources:

Literature reviewed 08/01/17. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.

1. Hoppe C, Witt JA, Helmstaedter C, Gasser T, Vatter H, Elger CE. Laser interstitial thermotherapy (LiTT) in epilepsy surgery. *Seizure*. May 2017;48:45-52.
2. Ivan ME, Mohammadi AM, De Deugd N, et al. Laser Ablation of Newly Diagnosed Malignant Gliomas: a Meta-Analysis. *Neurosurgery*. Dec 2016;79 Suppl 1:S17-s23.
3. Mohammadi AM, Schroeder JL. Laser interstitial thermal therapy in treatment of brain tumors--the NeuroBlate System. *Expert review of medical devices*. Mar 2014;11(2):109-119.



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LASER INTERSTITIAL THERMAL THERAPY (LITT) (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)

4. Pruitt R, Gamble A, Black K, Schulder M, Mehta AD. Complication avoidance in laser interstitial thermal therapy: lessons learned. *Journal of neurosurgery*. Apr 2017;126(4):1238-1245.
5. Smith CJ, Myers CS, Chapple KM, Smith KA. Long-Term Follow-up of 25 Cases of Biopsy-Proven Radiation Necrosis or Post-Radiation Treatment Effect Treated With Magnetic Resonance-Guided Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy. *Neurosurgery*. Dec 2016;79 Suppl 1:S59-s72.
6. Tovar-Spinoza Z, Choi H. MRI-guided laser interstitial thermal therapy for the treatment of low-grade gliomas in children: a case-series review, description of the current technologies and perspectives. *Child's nervous system : ChNS : official journal of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery*. Oct 2016;32(10):1947-1956.
7. Wright J, Chugh J, Wright CH, et al. Laser interstitial thermal therapy followed by minimal-access transsulcal resection for the treatment of large and difficult to access brain tumors. *Neurosurgical focus*. Oct 2016;41(4):E14.



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Non-Discrimination Statement:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. BCBSAZ provides appropriate free aids and services, such as qualified interpreters and written information in other formats, to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. BCBSAZ also provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, call (602) 864-4884 for Spanish and (877) 475-4799 for all other languages and other aids and services.

If you believe that BCBSAZ has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance with: BCBSAZ's Civil Rights Coordinator, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, P.O. Box 13466, Phoenix, AZ 85002-3466, (602) 864-2288, TTY/TDD (602) 864-4823, crc@azblue.com. You can file a grievance in person or by mail or email. If you need help filing a grievance BCBSAZ's Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>

Multi-Language Interpreter Services:

Spanish: Si usted, o alguien a quien usted está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 602-864-4884.

Navajo: Díí kwe'é atah nilínigíí Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haada yit'éego bina'idííkidgo éí doodago Háida bíjá anilyeedígíí t'áadoo le'é yina'idííkidgo beehaz'áanii hólg díí t'áa hazaadk'ehjí háká a'doowołgo bee haz'ą doo baqah ilínígóó. Ata' halne'ígíí kojí' bich'í' hodíilnih 877-475-4799.

Chinese: 如果您，或是您正在協助的對象，有關於插入項目的名稱 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona 方面的問題，您有權利免費以您的母語得到幫助和訊息。洽詢一位翻譯員，請撥電話 在此插入數字 877-475-4799。

Vietnamese: Nếu quý vị, hay người mà quý vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona quý vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thêm thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thông dịch viên, xin gọi 877-475-4799.

Arabic:

إن كان لديك أو لدى شخص تساعد أسئلة بخصوص Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona، فلديك الحق في الحصول على المساعدة والمعلومات الضرورية بلغتك من دون أية تكلفة. للتحدث مع مترجم اتصل بـ 877-475-4799.

