POWER MORCELLATION OF THE UTERUS AND PROSTATE

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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Description:

Morcellation is the division of tissue into smaller pieces or fragments to facilitate removal of tissue. Laparoscopic power morcellators (LPMs) are medical devices used to fragment tissue to allow surgical specimens to be removed through small incisions during minimally invasive laparoscopic surgeries including uterine and prostate surgeries.

The FDA issued a safety communication 04/17/2014 discouraging the use of laparoscopic power morcellation during hysterectomy or myomectomy for the treatment of women with uterine fibroids. Per the safety communication, in women with unsuspected uterine sarcoma, the procedure could spread cancerous tissue within the abdomen and pelvis significantly worsening likelihood of long-term survival.
POWER MORCELLATION OF THE UTERUS AND PROSTATE (cont.)

Criteria:

For laparoscopic and percutaneous techniques for myolysis of uterine fibroids, see BCBSAZ Medical Coverage Guideline #O807, “Laparoscopic and Percutaneous Techniques for the Myolysis of Uterine Fibroids”.

For transcervical radiofrequency ablation of uterine fibroids, see BCBSAZ Medical Coverage Guideline, #O969, “Transcervical Radiofrequency Ablation of Uterine Fibroids”.

- Laparoscopic power morcellation in the treatment of uterine and prostate disorders 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.

Resources:

Literature reviewed 09/27/16. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.


POWER MORCELLATION OF THE UTERUS AND PROSTATE (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


POWER MORCELLATION OF THE UTERUS AND PROSTATE (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


POWER MORCELLATION OF THE UTERUS AND PROSTATE (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


POWER MORCELLATION OF THE UTERUS AND PROSTATE (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


40. Up to Date. Differentiating Uterine Leiomyomas (Fibroids) From Uterine Sarcomas. Last updated 04/21/2015, 08/19/2014.

41. Up to Date. Instruments and Devices Used in Laparoscopic Surgery. Last updated 08/04/2014.

42. UpToDate.com. Uterine tissue extraction by morcellation: Techniques and clinical issues. 08/08/2016.


