OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY (OCT) OF THE ANTERIOR EYE SEGMENT

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.

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.

BLUE CROSS®, BLUE SHIELD® and the Cross and Shield Symbols are registered service marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. All other trademarks and service marks contained in this guideline are the property of their respective owners, which are not affiliated with BCBSAZ.

Description:

Optical coherence tomography (OCT) is a high resolution method of imaging the ocular structures. OCT for the anterior eye segment has been investigated as a non-invasive diagnostic and screening tool for the detection of angle closure glaucoma, to assess corneal thickness and opacity, evaluate pre-surgical and postsurgical anterior chamber anatomy, calculate intraocular lens power, guide laser-assisted cataract surgery, assess complications following surgical procedures, and to image intracorneal ring segments. OCT has also been investigated in relation to pathologic processes such as dry eye syndrome, tumors, uveitis and infections.
OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY (OCT) OF THE ANTERIOR EYE SEGMENT
(cont.)

For optical coherence tomography (OCT) of the posterior eye segment criteria, see BCBSAZ Medical Coverage Guideline, “Ophthalmologic Techniques for Evaluating Glaucoma”.

Criteria:

- Scanning computerized ophthalmic imaging (e.g. OCT) of the anterior segment of the eye 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.

Resources:

Resources prior to 03/20/13 may be requested from the BCBSAZ Medical Policy and Technology Research Department.


FDA 510(k) Summary for Visante™ Ocular Coherence Tomography (OCT):

- FDA-approved indication: For the in vivo imaging and measurement of ocular structures in the anterior segment, such as corneal and LASIK flap thickness.