

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 2.7
TITLE: STEREOTAXIC (STEREOTACTIC) BREAST BIOPSY

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(b)(2)(vii) and (b)(3)(v)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 1995

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

10021, 10022, 19001, 19100-19126, 76090-76096

III. DESCRIPTION

Stereotaxic (stereotactic) breast biopsy involves inserting a needle into a suspicious lump in a breast to obtain a tissue sample. The biopsy needle is attached to an automated high-speed injection gun mounted on a special mammography machine which is used to guide the placement of the biopsy needle. Two separate mammograms are taken at angles to each other. A computer then uses the two images to calculate the exact position of the lump. Once the exact position of the lesion is determined, the needle is inserted into the breast and the injection gun is fired several times to remove samples from different portions of the lesion. Samples are then sent to a pathologist for evaluation. If the lump is determined to be benign, further surgery would not be necessary. If malignant, then a surgical lumpectomy or mastectomy would need to be performed to remove the cancer.

IV. POLICY

CHAMPVA may cost share needle-core biopsy of any palpable or nonpalpable breast lesion.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. This procedure is also appropriate for the evaluation of dense coarse types of calcification that are commonly associated with cancer which would have been previously referred for surgical biopsy.

B. A surgical biopsy may be preferable when a mammogram or physical examination detects an abnormality that is potentially cancerous and will have to be removed anyway. If the abnormality is not immediately conclusive, stereotaxic breast biopsy offers a comparable technique to open surgical biopsy and is associated with less morbidity than surgical biopsy.

C. Fine needle aspiration (FNA) biopsy is covered when performed with the excision of a breast lesion after preoperative placement of a radiologic marker.

1. For FNA without imaging guidance use CPT 10021.
2. For FNA with image guided breast biopsy use CPT 19102-19103, and 10022.

VI. EXCLUSIONS

FNA when used as a core biopsy

END OF POLICY