

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 3.3
TITLE: **CRYOTHERAPY (CRYOSURGERY) FOR LIVER METASTASES**

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713 and 38 CFR 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2)(i)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 3, Section 8.6

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

December 1, 1991

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

47399

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Cryotherapy is defined as the in situ destruction of tissues using subzero temperatures. The procedure is performed by inserting into the tumor a thin probe filled with liquid nitrogen, freezing the surrounding tissue. The freezing destroys the tumor tissue, which is then slowly absorbed by the body over time. The probe insertion and freezing process are monitored precisely by ultrasound. Cryotherapy usually involves a cycle of treatments in which the tumor is frozen, allowed to thaw, and then refrozen. The liver is a common site of metastatic disease.

B. CHAMPVA may cost-share medically necessary services and supplies related to cryosurgery for liver metastases subject to the Policy Considerations section below.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. CHAMPVA may cost share cryotherapy for liver metastases when the following criteria is met:

1. Absence of active malignancies outside the liver.
2. The patient is an acceptable risk for major surgery.
3. Conventional hepatic resection is not possible due to volume of disease, location of disease, multiplicity of lesions or need for preservation of normal liver.

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B. The device being used must meet the criteria outlined in [Chapter 2, Section 17.8](#), *Requirement for Food and Drug Administration Approval for Medical Devices*

C. If previously denied claims are brought to the attention of CHAMPVA, the claims shall be reprocessed in accordance with this policy.

END OF POLICY