Magnetic resonance imaging of the breast for preoperative evaluation in patients with localized breast cancer
BlueCross Blue Shield Association

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Citation

Authors' objectives
This Assessment evaluates the clinical effectiveness of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the breast for preoperative evaluation of patients with localized breast cancer (Stage I or II, T0-1 N0-1 M0).

Authors' conclusions
Evidence from 6 major randomized trials comparing outcomes of mastectomy versus BCT for early stage breast cancer finds no significant differences in overall or disease-free survival during intermediate or long-term follow-up to 20 years. Rates of locoregional recurrence are no different at intermediate follow-up for mastectomy versus BCT with radiation; however, statistically significant differences in locoregional recurrence emerge during long-term follow-up, favoring mastectomy over BCT with radiation. Nevertheless, it is not clear whether these delayed recurrences relate to unresected multicentric disease at the time of initial surgery and whether the use of MRI for preoperative evaluation to guide mastectomy would reduce these delayed recurrences.

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Address for correspondence
BlueCross BlueShield Association, Technology Evaluation Center, 225 North Michigan Ave, Chicago, Illinois, USA.
Tel: 888 832 4321 Email: tec@bcbsa.com

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