



Radiofrequency Ablation of Tumors & Cryotherapy Procedures

PURPOSE

The purpose of these criteria is to assure that physicians performing Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) of tumors and cryotherapy procedures are qualified. A minimum level of training and/or experience must be documented before privileges are granted.

DEFINITION

Radiofrequency Ablation - A less invasive alternative to surgical removal of tumors is eliminating the tumor cells using heat with a technique called radiofrequency ablation. Guided primarily by CT scanning, a small needle electrode is inserted through the skin and directly into the tumor tissue while radiofrequency energy consisting of an alternating electrical current in the frequency of radio waves is passed through the electrode. The energy causes the tissues around the needle electrode to heat up, killing the nearby cancer cells.

Cryotherapy Procedures – Also called *cryosurgery*, *cryoablation* or *targeted cryoablation therapy*, refers to the application of extreme cold to destroy diseased tissue, including cancer cells.

QUALIFICATIONS

Physicians applying for Radiofrequency Tumor Ablation and Cryoablation privileges should be trained in the management of the specific disease process, with a minimum of one year of training in the management of the disease.

Physicians:

- Must be members of the Professional Staff of McLaren Greater Lansing, and
- Must provide documentation of completion of a comprehensive accredited course related to RFA and cryotherapy

The physician will submit a request to their Department chairman for privileges accompanied by documentation and, if approved, the Department will forward the request to the Credentials Committee for review and recommendations.

MONITORING

Monitoring shall consist of two (2) cases double-scrubbed or monitored.

Approved: Department of Surgery – 6/21/06
Department of Radiology – 6/21/06
Credentials Committee – 7/13/06
PSEC – 7/24/06