



FEP Medical Policy Manual

FEP 2.04.33 Genetic and Protein Biomarkers for the Diagnosis and Cancer Risk Assessment of Prostate Cancer

Effective Policy Date: April 1, 2021

Related Policies:

Original Policy Date: December 2011

2.04.111 - Gene Expression Profiling and Protein Biomarkers for Prostate Cancer Management
7.01.152 - Magnetic Resonance Imaging-Targeted Biopsy of the Prostate

Genetic and Protein Biomarkers for the Diagnosis and Cancer Risk Assessment of Prostate Cancer

Description

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Various genetic and protein biomarkers are associated with prostate cancer. These tests have the potential to improve the accuracy of differentiating between which men should undergo prostate biopsy and which rebiopsy after a prior negative biopsy. This evidence review addresses these types of tests for cancer risk assessment. Testing to determine cancer aggressiveness after a tissue diagnosis of cancer is addressed in evidence review 2.04.111. Magnetic resonance imaging-targeted biopsy of suspicious lesions is assessed in evidence review 7.01.152.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this evidence review is to determine whether testing for genetic and protein prostate biomarkers improves the net health outcome in men for whom an initial prostate biopsy or a repeat prostate biopsy is being considered.

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POLICY STATEMENT

The following genetic and protein biomarkers for the diagnosis of prostate cancer are considered **investigational**:

- Kallikrein markers (eg, 4Kscore Test)
- *HOXC6* and *DLX1* testing (eg, SelectMDx)
- ERG, and SPDEF RNA expression in exosomes (eg, ExoDx Prostate IntelliScore)
- Autoantibodies ARF 6, NKX3-1, 5-UTR-BMI1, CEP 164, 3-UTR-Ropporin, Desmocollin, AURKAIP-1, and CSNK2A2 (eg, Apifyny)
- *TMPRSS:ERG* fusion genes
- Gene hypermethylation testing (eg, ConfirmMDx)
- Mitochondrial DNA variant testing (eg, Prostate Core Mitomics Test)
- Candidate gene panels.

PCA3 testing (eg, ProgenSA PCA3 Assay) testing and prostate Health Index (phi) (eg, pro PSA) for cancer risk assessment of prostate cancer is considered **not medically necessary**.

Single nucleotide variant testing for cancer risk assessment of prostate cancer is considered **investigational**.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Genetic Counseling

Experts recommend formal genetic counseling for patients who are at risk for inherited disorders and who wish to undergo genetic testing. Interpreting the results of genetic tests and understanding risk factors can be difficult for some patients; genetic counseling helps individuals understand the impact of genetic testing, including the possible effects the test results could have on the individual or their family members. It should be noted that genetic counseling may alter the utilization of genetic testing substantially and may reduce inappropriate testing; further, genetic counseling should be performed by an individual with experience and expertise in genetic medicine and genetic testing methods.

BENEFIT APPLICATION

Screening (other than the preventive services listed in the brochure) is not covered. Please see Section 6 General exclusions.

Benefits are available for specialized diagnostic genetic testing when it is medically necessary to diagnose and/or manage a patient's existing medical condition. Benefits are not provided for genetic panels when some or all of the tests included in the panel are not covered, are experimental or investigational, or are not medically necessary.

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FDA REGULATORY STATUS

Some Plans may have contract or benefit exclusions for genetic testing.

FDA REGULATORY STATUS

Clinical laboratories may develop and validate tests in-house and market them as a laboratory service; laboratory-developed tests must meet the general regulatory standards of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments. Laboratories that offer laboratory-developed tests must be licensed under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments for high-complexity testing. The following laboratories are certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments: BioReference Laboratories and GenPath Diagnostics (subsidiaries of OPKO Health; 4Kscore), ARUP Laboratories, Mayo Medical Laboratories, LabCorp, BioVantra, others (PCA3 assay), Clinical Research Laboratory (Prostate Core Mitomic Test™), MDx Health (SelectMDx, ConfirMDx), Innovative Diagnostics (phi™), and ExoDx Prostate (Exosome Diagnostics). To date, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has chosen not to require any regulatory review of this test.

In February 2012, the Progenesa PCA3 Assay (Gen-Probe; now Hologic) was approved by the FDA through the premarket approval process. The Progenesa PCA3 Assay has been approved by the FDA to aid in the decision for repeat biopsy in men 50 years or older who have had one or more negative prostate biopsies and for whom a repeat biopsy would be recommended based on the current standard of care. The Progenesa PCA3 Assay should not be used for men with atypical small acinar proliferation on their most recent biopsy. FDA product code: OYM.

In June 2012, proPSA, a blood test used to calculate the Prostate Health Index (phi; Beckman Coulter) was approved by the FDA through the premarket approval process. The phi test is indicated as an aid to distinguish prostate cancer from a benign prostatic condition in men ages 50 and older with prostate-specific antigen levels of 4 to 10 ng/mL and with digital rectal exam findings that are not suspicious. According to the manufacturer, the test reduces the number of prostate biopsies. FDA product code: OYA.

RATIONALE

Summary of Evidence

For individuals who are being considered for an initial prostate biopsy who receive testing for genetic and protein biomarkers of prostate cancer (eg, kallikreins biomarkers and 4Kscore Test, proPSA and Prostate Health Index, TMPRSS fusion genes and Mi-Prostate Score, SelectMDx for Prostate Cancer, ExoDx Prostate, Apify, PCA3 score), the evidence includes systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and primarily observational studies. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, test validity, resource utilization, and quality of life. The evidence supporting clinical utility varies by the test but has not been directly shown for any biomarker test. Absent direct evidence of clinical utility, a chain of evidence might be constructed. However, the performance of biomarker testing for directing biopsy referrals is uncertain. While some studies have shown a reduction or delay in biopsy based on testing, a chain of evidence for clinical utility cannot be constructed due to limitations in clinical validity. Test validation populations have included men with a positive digital rectal exam, a prostate-specific antigen level outside of the gray zone (between 3 or 4 ng/mL and 10 ng/mL), or older men for whom the information from test results are less likely to be informative. Many biomarker tests do not have standardized cutoffs to recommend a biopsy. In addition, comparative studies of the many biomarkers are lacking. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who are being considered for repeat biopsy who receive testing for genetic and protein biomarkers of prostate cancer (eg, Gene Hypermethylation and ConfirmMDx test, Prostate Core Mitomics Test), the evidence includes systematic reviews and meta-analyses and primarily observational studies. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, test validity, resource utilization, and quality of life. The performance of biomarker testing for guiding rebiopsy decisions is lacking. The tests are associated with a diagnosis of prostate cancer and aggressive prostate cancer, but studies on clinical validity are limited and did not compare performance characteristics with standard risk prediction models. Direct evidence supporting clinical utility has not been shown. No data

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are currently available on physician decisions on rebiopsy or on the longer-term clinical outcomes of men who did not have biopsy based on test results. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Practice Guidelines and Position Statements

American Urological Association et al

The American Urological Association (AUA, 2013; confirmed 2018) published guidelines on the early detection of prostate cancer.⁶⁷ The AUA concluded that:

"the literature supporting the efficacy of digital rectal exam (DRE), PSA [prostate-specific antigen] derivatives and isoforms (e.g. free PSA, -2proPSA, prostate health index, hK2, PSA velocity or PSA doubling time) and novel urinary markers and biomarkers (e.g. PCA3) for screening with the goal of reducing prostate cancer mortality provide limited evidence to draw conclusions. While some data suggest use of these secondary screening tools may reduce unnecessary biopsies (i.e. reduce harms) while maintaining the ability to detect aggressive prostate cancer (i.e. maintain the benefits of PSA screening), more research is needed to confirm this."

National Comprehensive Cancer Network

The NCCN guidelines (v.2.2020) recommend that any man with a PSA level greater than 3 ng/mL undergo workup for benign disease, repeat PSA, and digital rectal examination.⁶⁸ The guidelines also recommend consideration of biomarkers that improve the specificity of screening that includes percent free PSA, with consideration of phi, SelectMDx, ExoDx Prostate (IntelliScore) (EPI), or 4Kscore in patients with a PSA level greater than 3 ng/mL who have not yet had a biopsy. Percent free PSA, phi, 4Kscore, PCA3, ExoDx Prostate (IntelliScore) (EPI), and ConfirmMDx might be considered in men who had a negative biopsy but are thought to be at higher risk (category 2A evidence). The NCCN noted that these tests may be especially useful in men with PSA levels between 3 ng/mL and 10 ng/mL. The NCCN considers the Mi-Prostate Score (MiPS) to be investigational at the time of the update. The status of SelectMDx was changed from investigational in 2019 to potentially informative in the 2020 update.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

In 2019, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) did not recommend the ProgenSA PCA3 Assay or the phi test for use in men with suspicion of prostate cancer who had a negative or inconclusive prostate biopsy.⁶⁹

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (2018) updated recommendations for prostate cancer screening. Genetic and protein biomarkers addressed in this evidence review, including PCA3, were not mentioned.⁷⁰

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force advises individualized decision making about screening for prostate cancer after discussion with a clinician for men ages 55 to 69 (C recommendation) and recommends against PSA-based screening in men 70 and older (D recommendation).

Medicare National Coverage

There is no national coverage determination. In the absence of a national coverage determination, coverage decisions are left to the discretion of local Medicare carriers. Several MoIDx carriers have positive coverage for the ConfirmMDx Epigenetic Molecular Assay and the PCA3 assay. At least 1 LCD will cover percent free PSA, phi, or 4K score once prior to initial biopsy in men who meet criteria.

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POLICY HISTORY - THIS POLICY WAS APPROVED BY THE FEP® PHARMACY AND MEDICAL POLICY COMMITTEE ACCORDING TO THE HISTORY BELOW:

Date	Action	Description
December 2011	New policy	
June 2013	Replace policy	Policy updated with literature review, references added, policy statement changed PCA3 from investigational to not medically necessary.
June 2014	Replace policy	Policy updated with literature review through March 16, 2014; references 1, 12-13, 31-46, 60-65, 67-70, 82-88 added. No change to policy statement.
June 2015	Replace policy	Policy updated with literature review through March 16, 2015. Policy revised to focus on diagnostic testing (as well as SNP testing for cancer risk assessment). Policy statements revised to include an expanded list of diagnostic genetic and protein biomarker tests as investigational. Prognostic testing is being moved to Policy No. 2.04.111. References extensively revised. Title changed "Genetic and Protein Biomarkers for the Diagnosis and Cancer Risk Assessment of Prostate Cancer."
December 2016	Replace policy	Policy updated with literature review through August 26, 2016; references 1-28, 31-44, 46-57, 60-65, 82, 96-99, 102, 104, 107, 110-111, and 117-118 added. Prostate Health Index (phi) biomarker test added to review and policy statement.
March 2018	Replace policy	Policy updated with literature review through July 26, 2017; references 1-2 and 22 updated; reference 1, 22, and 27 added; Prostarix test removed from policy and policy statement; policy statement corrected due to FDA premarket approval status to change PCA3 and Prostate Health Index (phi) biomarker tests from investigational to not medically necessary, otherwise policy statement unchanged.
March 2019	Replace policy	Policy updated with literature review through September 4, 2018; references 6, 32-34, 36-38, 45, 50, 55, and 60 added. The SelectMDx, ExoDx Prostate (IntelliScore), and Apify tests added as investigational.
March 2020	Replace policy	Policy updated with literature review through September 18, 2019; references added. Policy statements unchanged.
March 2021	Replace policy	Policy updated with literature review through October 16, 2020; references added. Policy statements unchanged.

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