



Magellan Healthcare	
Clinical guideline: INTRAOPERATIVE RADIATION THERAPY (IORT)	Original Date: November 2013 Page 1 of 5
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INTRODUCTION

Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT) is a radiation treatment that is administered during surgery. It allows delivery of radiation directly to the target area for cancers that are difficult to remove during surgery or in situations in which there may be microscopic amounts of cancer remaining after removal. IORT delivers higher doses of radiation than can be used in conventional radiation therapy because the doctor can temporarily move nearby organs or shield them from radiation exposure.

IORT is often combined with conventional radiation therapy which is typically given prior to surgery.

Initial Clinical Reviewers (ICRs) and Physician Clinical Reviewers (PCRs) must be able to apply criteria based on individual needs and based on an assessment of the local delivery system.

INDICATIONS FOR IORT:

Breast Cancer: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Breast Cancer. IORT is considered investigational and not a medically necessary treatment option for the treatment of breast cancer.

Cervical Cancer: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Cervical Cancer. IORT is indicated for local or regional recurrence of cervical cancer for centralized disease when previous radiation therapy has occurred.

Colon Cancer: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Colorectal Cancer. IORT can be used as a boost for recurrent cancer of T4 tumors with penetration/perforation and intermediate/positive margins. IORT can also be used as a boost for recurrent cancer.

Pancreatic Cancer: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Pancreatic Cancer. IORT for pancreatic cancer requires review by a physician and may be reasonable for patients undergoing resection that may result in a closer involved margin.

Rectal Cancer: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Colorectal Cancer. IORT is indicated for rectal cancer with positive or close margins for T4 lesions or recurrent disease.

Soft Tissue Sarcoma: IORT (with photons or electrons) is considered medically necessary as boost treatment at time of surgery for cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, pancreatic cancer and soft tissue sarcomas if either of the following criteria is met:

- Tumor has a high risk of recurring; or
- Tumor cannot be completely removed (positive margins)

FREQUENCY OF PROCEDURE:

- A single fraction is allowed during surgery for the above situations.

CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR IORT

IORT is not indicated for any other cancer sites or scenarios other than those listed above, or when the above indications are not met. All other scenarios are considered investigational and not medically necessary.

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