



## Corporate Medical Policy

# Electrical Impedance Scanning of the Breast

**File Name:** electrical\_impedance\_scanning\_of\_the\_breast  
**Policy Number:** RAD5048  
**Origination:** 12/2004  
**Last Review:** 5/2008  
**Next Review:** 5/2010

### Description of Procedure or Service

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Electrical [impedance](#) scanning of the breast involves the transmission of continuous electricity into the body using either an electrical patch attached to the arm or a hand-held cylinder. The electrical current travels through the breast where it is then measured at skin level by a probe placed on the breast. Cancerous tissue conducts electricity differently than normal tissue; therefore, cancerous images may show up on the resulting imaging as a bright white spot. The T-scan 2000 is an electrical [impedance](#) scanning device that received approval for marketing from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1999, with the following labeled indication:

- "The T-scan 2000 is intended for use as an adjunct to mammography in patients who have equivocal mammographic finding with ACR Bi-RADS™ categories 3 or 4 (see Policy Guidelines Section for category information). In particular, it is not intended for use in cases with clear mammographic or non-mammographic indications for biopsy. This device provides the radiologist with additional information to guide a biopsy recommendation."

### Policy

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**BCBSNC does not provide coverage for Electrical Impedance Scanning of the Breast. It is considered investigational. BCBSNC does not provide coverage for investigational services.**

### Benefits Application

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Please refer to Certificate for availability of benefits. This policy relates only to the services or supplies described herein. Benefits may vary according to benefit design, therefore certificate language should be reviewed before applying the terms of the policy.

### When Electrical Impedance Scanning of the Breast is covered

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Not applicable.

### When Electrical Impedance Scanning of the Breast is not covered

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BCBSNC does not provide coverage for Electrical [Impedance](#) Scanning of the Breast. It is considered investigational. BCBSNC does not provide coverage for investigational services.

## Policy: Electrical Impedance Scanning of the Breast

### Policy Guidelines

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A literature search reveals a variety of case series. Some studies focused on the technical capability of electrical [impedance](#) scanning. All of those studies that reported on the diagnostic performance of electrical [impedance](#) scanning, reported an inferior performance to that reported in the FDA Summary of Safety and Effectiveness.

#### **BI-RADs Categories:**

1. No abnormality noted; probability of malignancy is zero
2. Benign finding (e.g., fibroadenomas, lipoma)
3. Probably benign finding--short followup suggested. This category includes lesions with high probability of being benign, but the radiologist would prefer to establish its stability, and thus repeat mammography at 6 months is typically recommended. The probability of malignancy is estimated at 2%
4. Suspicious abnormality--biopsy should be considered. These lesions do not have the characteristics morphologies of breast cancer but have a definite probability of being malignant. The radiologist has sufficient concern to urge a biopsy. The probability of malignancy ranges from 2% to 80%
5. Highly suggestive of malignancy. The probability of malignancy ranges from 80% to 100%

### Billing/Coding/Physician Documentation Information

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This policy may apply to the following codes. Inclusion of a code in this section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed. For further information on reimbursement guidelines, please see Administrative Policies on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina web site at [www.bcbsnc.com](http://www.bcbsnc.com). They are listed in the Category Search on the Medical Policy search page.

*Applicable codes: 0060T*

BCBSNC may request medical records for determination of medical necessity. When medical records are requested, letters of support and/or explanation are often useful, but are not sufficient documentation unless all [specific](#) information needed to make a medical necessity determination is included.

### Policy Key Words

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Key Words: RAD5048, breast cancer, electrical impedance scanning of breast, T-scan.

### Medical Term Definitions

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#### **Impedance**

the opposition to the flow of an alternating current.

#### **Morphologies**

the forms and structures of organisms.

## Policy: Electrical Impedance Scanning of the Breast

### Scientific Background and Reference Sources

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BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual [Electronic version]. 2.01.63, 10/09/03.

ECRI Health Technology Forecast. (January 28, 2004). Electrical Impedance Scanning (EIS) of the breast. Retrieved 9/11/06 from [http://www.ta.ecri.org/Forecast/Prod/summary/detail.aspx?doc\\_id=5054](http://www.ta.ecri.org/Forecast/Prod/summary/detail.aspx?doc_id=5054)

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Premarket approval for T-Scan 2000. Retrieved 9/11/06 from <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/pdf/P97033b.pdf>

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual [Electronic version]. 2.01.63, 4/25/06.

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual [Electronic version]. 2.01.63, 9/18/07.

### Policy Implementation/Update Information

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12/23/04 New policy issued. Electrical impedance scanning of the breast is considered investigational. Reference added. Notification 12/23/2004. Effective 3/3/2005.

11/13/06 Description of BI-RADs categories added to Policy Guidelines section. References updated. Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 10/23/06

6/16/08 Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 5/15/08. No change to policy statement.

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Medical policy is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or a contract. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied. Benefits are determined by the group contract and subscriber certificate that is in effect at the time services are rendered. This document is solely provided for informational purposes only and is based on research of current medical literature and review of common medical practices in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. Medical practices and knowledge are constantly changing and BCBSNC reserves the right to review and revise its medical policies periodically.

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