



UM-CDG-061 Corneal Hysteresis

Approved By:
Director, Health Services

Effective Date:
10/20/2025

This Policy applies to all SECUR affiliates, associates, and subsidiaries.

Approved by Courtney Gonzales, Director of Health Services on behalf of the Utilization Management Committee.

PURPOSE

This coverage determination guideline serves to address corneal hysteresis. Hysteresis is a measure of resistance to deformation to an applied force. Corneal hysteresis (CH) is a measure of the viscoelastic dampening property of the cornea and is postulated to be a surrogate for the viscoelastic dampening properties of the posterior sclera and lamina cribrosa through which the retinal ganglion cell axons pass as they exit the eye. It is theorized that glaucomatous damage to the retinal ganglion cell axons occurs at the lamina cribrosa and that viscoelastic differences in the lamina cribrosa are responsible for the differential effects of intraocular pressure within these tissues and contribute to the susceptibility to intraocular pressure (IOP) mediated damage. Studies have shown an association between a lower CH and glaucoma/glaucoma risk, and it has been proposed as a risk stratification tool for us in the treatment of glaucoma, glaucoma suspect, and ocular hypertension. Corneal hysteresis is not itself a modifiable risk factor for glaucoma, but in theory could signal the need for more aggressive IOP reduction.

For SECUR Health Plan members, National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) will be applied to requests when applicable. SECUR Health Plan Coverage Determination Guidelines (CDG) will be utilized in the absence of an appropriate NCD and/or LCD.

DEFINITIONS

None

POLICY

SECUR Health Plan deems corneal hysteresis as not medically necessary for all members. There is limited evidence to suggest this is standard medical practice, to show long term clinical benefit, and long term effects.

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