

Medical Coverage Policies

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Rhinophototherapy

EFFECTIVE DATE	08/18/2009	LAST UPDATED	10/19/2010
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Description:

Rhinophototherapy is a medical therapy which is proposed for the treatment of allergic rhinitis and other nasal conditions. This treatment involves the use of a light emitting device that is inserted into the nose to expose the sinus and nasal tissues to a combination of ultraviolet and visible light which is said to cause a reaction in the nasal tissue that decreases the symptoms.

Currently, there is limited peer-review literature which addresses the use of rhinophototherapy. A search of PubMed located three studies with limited small number of patients, 8, 49, and 50 patients. Although the results of these small studies suggest that phototherapy may be an effective treatment for allergic rhinitis and other nasal conditions, the studies are too small to allow wider generalization of the results to the general population. There are also concerns regarding the use of ultraviolet light on such sensitive tissues as sinus membranes as it is well-known that UV light may have a deleterious effect on skin and other tissues. Further data is needed regarding the potential adverse effects of UV irradiation on the nasal mucosa and surrounding facial skin.

There is currently only one manufacturer, Rhinolight, Ltd., Szeged, Hungary, whose device the Rhinolight has been proposed for the administration of rhinophototherapy. The Rhinolight has not received PMA approval or 510k clearance for use in the US.

Medical Criteria:

Not applicable

Policy:

Rhinophototherapy is considered **not medically necessary** as the literature is limited to small studies and the evidence is insufficient to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes.

Coding:

0168T

Also Known As:

Rhinolight
Ultraviolet Light
UVA/UVB

Published:

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References:

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