

Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies

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Week of May 21, 2018

Cholecystogram & Cholecystotomy Placement

INDICATION: An 83-year-old female with acute cholecystitis who is currently too ill for operative resection.

PROCEDURES:

1. Ultrasound-guided percutaneous access of the gallbladder lumen.
2. Serial tract dilatation.
3. Fluoroscopic guided cholecystogram.
4. Fluoroscopic cholecystotomy drain placement.

TOTAL CONTRAST: 5 mL of Isovue-370. **TECHNIQUE**

After informed consent was obtained, the patient was placed supine on the imaging table. Right upper quadrant was sterilely prepped and draped and locally anesthetized with buffered 1% lidocaine. A small skin nick was then made. Under ultrasound guidance using a right subcostal approach, a 22-gauge Chiba needle was advance percutaneously into the gallbladder lumen and subsequently injected with contrast to confirm intraluminal positioning. A 0.18 inch guidewire was then passed and coiled within the gallbladder lumen over which the tract was serially dilated followed by placement of 10-French all-purpose drainage catheter. This was coiled in place within the gallbladder lumen and the locking loop was set. The catheter was then injected with contrast, again confirming intraluminal positioning and showing numerous filling defects within the gallbladder. The drain was then sutured in placed using 0 silk and was hooked to a gravity drain bag. A sample of the bile was sent to the laboratory for bacteriologic studies. Sterile bandages were applied. The patient tolerated the procedure well with no immediate complications.

CONCLUSION: Technically successful imaging guided percutaneous cholecystotomy drain placement as described.

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Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies CPT Codes

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Cholecystogram & Cholecystotomy Placement

Procedure Codes:

- 47490 Percutaneous cholecystostomy, including imaging guidance, catheter placement, cholecystogram when performed, and RS&I
- Q9967 x5 LOCM, 300-399 mg/ml iodine concentration, per ml

Diagnosis Codes:

- K81.0 Acute cholecystitis

Comments/Applicable Coding Rules:

- Code 47490 is assigned for image guided drainage catheter placement into the gallbladder. Both cholecystography and imaging guidance are bundled with this code. When a catheter is placed into a bile duct for drainage, codes 47533 or 47534 are assigned.
- *Drugs and supplies are billed by the facility performing the procedure and should not be assigned for professional fee coding.*

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