

Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies

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Week of May 28, 2018

Thrombin Injection for Pseudoaneurysm

INDICATION: Patient with history of large right groin pseudoaneurysm status post thrombin injection 12/21/2017. The patient presents with episode of groin bleeding. A small recurrent pseudoaneurysm was seen measuring approximately 9 mm (versus 4 cm on prior).

FINDINGS: Informed written consent was obtained from the patient after discussion of the risks, benefits, and alternatives to the procedure. The patient expressed full understanding and agreed to proceed forward. The patient was placed supine on the ultrasound stretcher.

Scanning was performed demonstrating a recurrent pseudoaneurysm at the right common femoral artery measuring approximately 13 x 8 mm. The neck was identified to be amenable to thrombin injection. Next, the skin was prepped and draped in a normal sterile fashion. The skin was anesthetized with 1% buffered lidocaine. Under ultrasound guidance, a 21-gauge needle was advanced into the pseudoaneurysm and a gentle injection of 1000 units per mL of thrombin was instilled. This was done under color flow imaging, immediately post injection. No discernable Doppler flow was seen within the pseudoaneurysm. A total of approximately 0.5 mL was injected. Ultrasound confirmed patency of the deep and superficial femoral arteries with triphasic waveforms maintained in the superficial femoral artery. Pedal pulses remain palpable. The patient tolerated the procedure well with no immediate complications.

CONCLUSION: Successful thrombin injection into recurrent right common femoral artery pseudoaneurysm. No Doppler flow was seen within the pseudoaneurysm at the end of the procedure.

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Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies CPT Codes

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Thrombin Injection for Pseudoaneurysm

Procedure Codes:

- 36002 Injection of thrombin to treat pseudoaneurysm
- 76942 Ultrasound guidance for injection
- J3490 Thrombin 1000 units per mL

Diagnosis Codes:

- I72.4 Pseudoaneurysm common femoral artery

Comments/Applicable Coding Rules:

- Code 36002 is specific to an injection procedure performed to treat a pseudoaneurysm via a direct puncture.
- The procedure was performed under ultrasound guidance, therefore 76942 is assigned.
- Drugs and supplies are billed by the facility performing the procedure and should not be assigned for professional fee coding. Note that medication information will need to be provided on the claim when using code J3490.
- From NCCI Manual, Chapter 5: *CPT code 36002 (injection procedures (eg, thrombin) for percutaneous treatment of extremity pseudoaneurysm) shall not be reported for vascular sealant of an arteriotomy site. It is bundled into vascular procedures and cardiopulmonary bypass procedures in which there is an arteriotomy. If the procedure described by CPT code 36002 is performed at a separate anatomic site unrelated to use of a vascular sealant or separate patient encounter on the same date of service, it may be reported separately with an NCCI-associated modifier.*

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