

# Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies

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**Week of June 11, 2018**

## CT Guided Core Biopsy Retroperitoneal Lymph Node

**CLINICAL INDICATION:** History breast cancer and bladder cancer; positive smoking history; retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy; oncology requests CT-guided biopsy for evaluation of potential metastatic disease.

**MEDICATIONS:** 2 mg Versed IV; 100 mcg fentanyl IV.

Sedation time: 30 minutes.

**FINDINGS:** The risks and benefits of CT-guided retroperitoneal lymph node biopsy were discussed with the patient and her family members prior to the exam. Questions were answered and informed written consent was obtained. The patient was placed prone on the CT table. The retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy along the left aspect of the aorta was located below level of the left renal vein. The back was prepped and draped in standard sterile fashion. The subcutaneous tissue and retroperitoneal tissue anesthetized with 1 % Lidocaine. With CT guidance a 17-gauge Cook biopsy needle was advanced to the posterior margin of the retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy. Four 18-gauge core biopsy samples were obtained with a 10 mm biopsy throw. The patient tolerated the procedure well. Post procedure scanning appeared negative for retroperitoneal hematoma. The patient's vitals were stable throughout the exam. The patient was discharged to the recovery unit for 3 hour bed rest and observation.

During the exam the patient was sedated with intravenous Versed and fentanyl. The patient's vitals were monitored prior during and after the exam by a radiology sedation nurse. Procedure and sedation time was 30 minutes.

**IMPRESSION:** Four 18-gauge core biopsy samples obtained from left retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy with CT guidance. No evidence of immediate post procedure complication.

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# Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies CPT Codes

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## **CT Guided Core Biopsy Retroperitoneal Lymph Node**

### **Procedure Codes:**

- 49180 Retroperitoneal Lymph Node Biopsy
- 77012 CT Guidance
- 99152 Moderate sedation first 15 minutes
- 99153 Moderate sedation each additional 15 minutes

### **Diagnosis Codes:**

- R59.0 Retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy
- Z85.3 Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast
- Z85.51 Personal history of malignant neoplasm of bladder
- Z87.891 Personal history of smoking

### **Comments:**

- Code 49180 is assigned for biopsy of retroperitoneal lymph nodes. Code 38505 is assigned for biopsy of superficial lymph nodes. The retroperitoneal lymph node is a deep biopsy and is assigned code 49180.
- Code 77012 is assigned for CT guidance. In accordance with NCCI rules, this code may only be assigned one time per session.
- 30 minutes of moderate conscious sedation noted, billed in 15 minute increments. (99152, 99153)

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## Applicable Coding Rules:

### Needle Core Biopsy Coding

- For core needle biopsies assign both the surgical code based on the anatomical site as well as the corresponding guidance code.
- The surgical codes for core biopsy procedures are assigned one time per lesion. Do not code for multiple passes of the same lesion.
- According to the NCCI Manual, the RS&I codes for guidance are reported one time per session:
  - ❖ *“CPT® codes 76942, 77002, 77003, 77012, 77021 describe radiological guidance for needle placement by different modalities. CMS payment policy allows only 1 unit of service for any of these codes at a single patient encounter regardless of the number of needle placements performed. The unit of service for these codes is the patient encounter, not the number of lesions, number of aspirations, number of biopsies, number of injections, or number of localizations.” –NCCI Manual Chapter 9*

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