
Documentation Dissection

Introduction: 45-year-old female patient presents for Sigmoidoscopy ^[1].

Indications: The patient has complained of passing large volumes of blood and clots per rectum. Recent colonoscopies positive only for hemorrhoids. I bring the patient for an unprepped flexible sigmoidoscopy ^[2].

Consent: The benefits, risks, and alternatives to the procedure were discussed and informed consent was obtained from the patient.

Procedure: The endoscope was passed with ease through the anus under direct visualization and advanced to the sigmoid colon at 25 cm ^[3]. The quality of the preparation was mediocre with some brown formed stools at mid sigmoid. The views were excellent. The patient's toleration of the procedure was excellent.

Findings: There is no blood in the colon on examination to the sigmoid ^[4]. No colitis. The rectum is free of blood or bleeding site. The anal verge has some mild external hemorrhoids ^[5].

Summary: There is no blood in the colon on examination of the sigmoid colon. No colitis. The rectum is free of blood or bleeding site. The anal verge has some mild external hemorrhoids. In face of patient complaints of gross rectal bleeding there is no blood in the colon, normal brown stool in the sigmoid. The only possibility is an anal verge vascular abnormality resulting in the reported "blood and clots" passed per rectum. There is no colonic lesion/blood on a scoped examination obtained within hours of her purported passage of blood per rectum.

^[1] Indication of what is going to be performed.

^[2] The reason for the procedure.

^[3] The examination was of the sigmoid colon with no therapeutic procedure performed.

^[4] No bleeding is found during the sigmoidoscopy.

^[5] External hemorrhoids are found and is reported as the diagnosis.

What are the CPT® and ICD-10-CM codes reported?

CPT® Code: 45330

ICD-10-CM Code: K64.4

Rationales:

CPT®: A diagnostic sigmoidoscopy is performed. In the CPT Index look for Sigmoidoscopy/Diagnostic referring you to 45330. Because no therapeutic procedures were performed, such as biopsy, a diagnostic sigmoidoscopy is reported.

ICD-10-CM: The sigmoidoscopy examination found external hemorrhoids. In the Alphabetic Index look for Hemorrhoids/external referring you to K64.4. Confirmation in the Tabular List confirms K64.4 is coded to the highest specificity and is reported for *External hemorrhoids, NOS*.
