
Documentation Dissection

PREOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS:

1. Spinal headache
2. CSF leak

POSTOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS:

1. Spinal headache ^[1]
2. CSF leak ^[1]

PROCEDURE: Epidural blood patch ^[2].

ANESTHESIA: Local and sedation.

COMPLICATIONS: None.

INDICATIONS: The 58-year-old female presents with a severe headache due to a CSF leak from a previous epidural injection for lower back pain 2 days ago ^[3]. She now presents for an epidural blood patch.

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE: The procedure risks, hazards and alternatives were discussed with the patient and a proper consent was obtained. The patient was placed in a lateral decubitus position and the skin was prepped and draped in a sterile classical fashion. Excess cleansing solution was removed from the skin. A tourniquet was also placed around the upper arm and the antecubital fossa was prepped and draped in a sterile classical fashion. Local anesthesia was infiltrated subcutaneous and deep at the previous puncture site in the low lumbar region.

Approximately 10 cc of autologous blood was withdrawn from the antecubital vein in a sterile fashion ^[4]. An 18-gauge Tuohy needle was then placed in the epidural space on the first pass utilizing loss of resistance technique with a saline filled syringe. The autologous blood was then injected into the epidural space in aliquots of 5 cc, with negative aspiration prior to each injection. The patient was placed in a recumbent position for another 30 to 60 minutes ^[5] before being allowed to sit up and ambulate. The patient tolerated the procedure well without any apparent difficulties or complications, with immediately relief by patient the time she left the building.

^[1] Diagnosis is a spinal headache due to a cerebrospinal fluid leak

^[2] The planned procedure is an epidural blood patch

^[3] Confirmation of the CSF leak due to the previous epidural injection into the lower back

^[4] Autologous blood was drawn from the patient for the blood patch

^[5] The epidural blood patch is performed

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

CPT® Code: 62273

ICD-10-CM Code: G97.1

Rationales:

CPT®: The blood patch is performed for a spinal headache from a cerebrospinal leak occurred after a spinal injection procedure. In the CPT Index, locate Injection. Under Epidural, it refers to see Epidural, Injection, then Blood or Clot Patch, which refers to 62273. When verifying the code, the description is Injection, epidural, of blood or clot patch, which is the correct code.

ICD-10-CM: For the headache due to the cerebrospinal leak, in the ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index, locate Headache/spinal fluid loss (from puncture), which refers to G97.1. Verification in the Tabular List of G97.1, Other reaction to spinal and lumbar puncture, with an inclusion term of Headache due to lumbar puncture, is the correct code. Although code G97.0 is defined as a Cerebrospinal fluid leak from spinal puncture, because the patient had a headache attributed to the spinal puncture, code G97.1 is reported.
