

2005 Changes for CPT Outpatient Surgery Coding

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January 1, 2005



Integumentary

Breast Radiotherapy Catheters (19296, 19297, 19298)

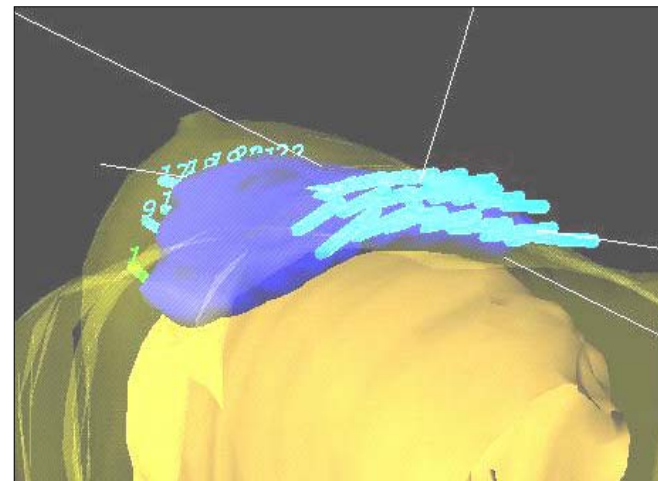
- New Codes

This is a means of performing localized radiation therapy for breast cancer.

It maximizes the radiation dose to the breast tissue around the lumpectomy site, the area most likely to contain residual microscopic disease. The advantage over conventional external radiation beam treatment is that the high dose can be delivered without overexposing the lungs, ribs, contralateral breast and adjacent skin.

There are two ways of providing partial interstitial breast irradiation:

- Balloon catheter brachytherapy
- Multi-catheter brachytherapy



Note that these codes are for implanting the catheters. Placing the radioactive source and delivering the radiation therapy is coded separately, with Radiation Oncology codes.

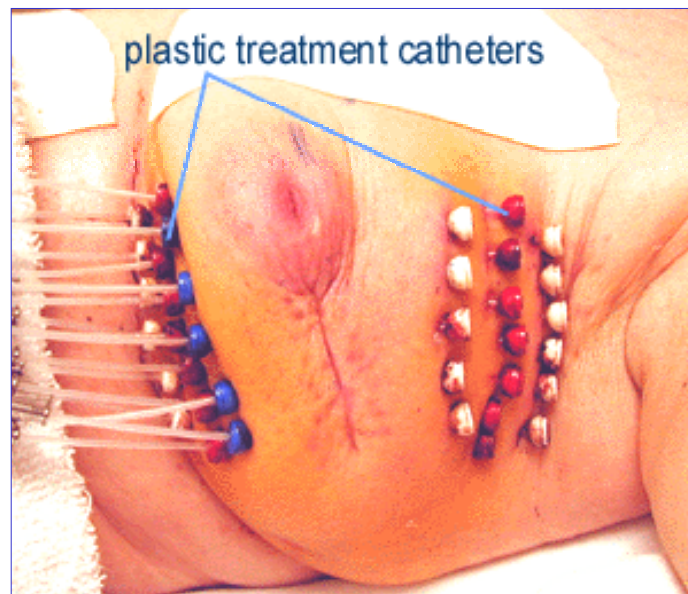
Integumentary

Breast Radiotherapy Catheters (19296, 19297, 19298) - *continued*

- New Codes

- > Multi-catheter Brachytherapy (19298)

Hollow catheters are placed in the breast. Their ends protrude and are connected by long tubes to the afterloader, a treatment unit. This holds the radioactive source, welded to the tip of a flexible cable. The source slides through the tubes and into each of the catheters, stopping to deliver the radiation. When complete, the source retracts into the afterloader and the tubes are disconnected from the catheters. The patient goes home with the catheters in place covered by a dressing.



The breast is treated twice a day for five days. After the last treatment, the physician removes the catheters which just slide out pretty easily.

Integumentary

Breast Radiotherapy Catheters (19296, 19297, 19298) - *continued*

- New Codes

- > Balloon Catheter Brachytherapy (19296, 19297)

This procedure uses a device called MammoSite® by Proxima. It's a thin catheter with a balloon at the end. The balloon is placed inside the lumpectomy cavity and inflated. A tiny radioactive source attached to a cable is placed within the balloon. After dosing, the source is retracted into the afterloader unit. The patient is treated twice a day for 5 days. After the last treatment, the balloon is deflated and removed.

The balloon catheter can be placed right after the lumpectomy or a few days later.



Code 19296 is for balloon catheter placement on a different date from the lumpectomy.

Code 19297 is for when the balloon catheter is placed on the same date as the lumpectomy. Note that it's an add-on code **+** and must be used with the lumpectomy code.

Cardiovascular

AV Anastomosis, Upper Arm Cephalic Vein Transposition (36818)

- New Code

This procedure is done to create a fistula for AV access for hemodialysis.



After freeing up the deep cephalic vein in the upper arm, a tunnel is created to bring the vein over and anastomose it to the brachial artery on the other side of the arm.

The cephalic vein is often used in *forearm* AV fistulae, typically in a direct anastomosis with the radial artery (36821) and sometimes in a forearm vein transposition (36820). *Upper arm* transposition of the deep cephalic vein is done when its more superficial branches in the forearm are inadequate.

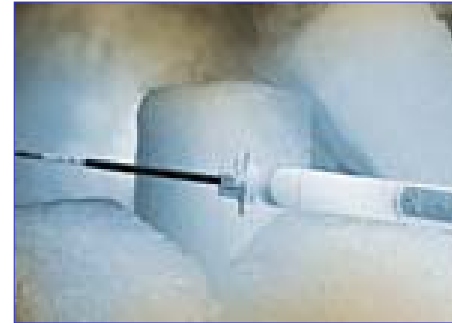


Female Genital

Endometrial Cryoablation (58356)

- New Code

This code replaces Category III code 0009T which has now been deleted.



Cryoablation uses extreme cold to destroy the lining of the uterus, as a treatment for excessive uterine bleeding.

Under ultrasound guidance, a probe is introduced into the endometrial cavity which cools to sub-zero temperatures and freezes all surrounding tissues. Note that hysteroscopy is not involved. Compare this to thermal or heat ablation either via hysteroscopy (58563) or without hysteroscopy (58353).

There's a note under 58356 instructing coders not to report 58356 with 58100, 58120, or 58340. In other words, D&C, endometrial sampling, and introduction of saline are included in code 58356 and are not reported separately. 📖

What's the Difference?

Endometrial Ablation Codes

58353 This is cryoablation, for freezing the uterus.

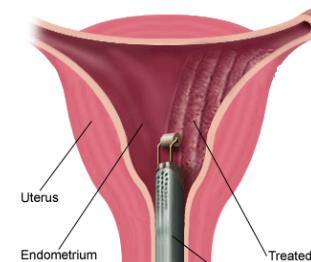
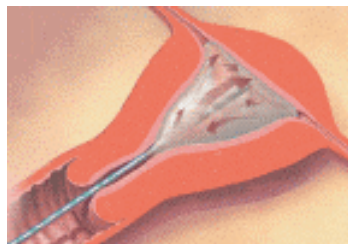
Common brand name : HerOption® by American Medical Systems



58356 This is thermal, or heat, ablation. A device is placed in the uterus, heated and removed. One techniques uses a balloon filled with hot water. Another uses a self-expanding radiofrequency electrode.

Common brand names : NovaSure™ by Novacept, ThermoChoice™ by Ethicon J&J

58563 This is ablation under direct hysteroscopic visualization. In other words, it's performed through the hysteroscope. There are several techniques here including NdYAG laser and rollerball.



Eye and Ocular Adnexa

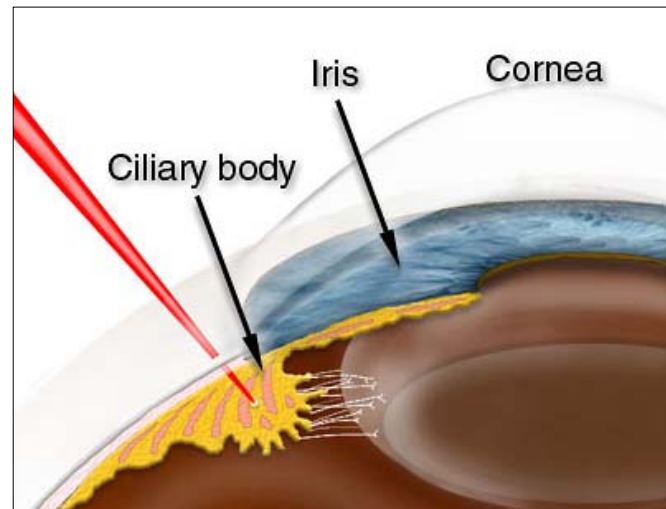
Ciliary Body Destruction by Cyclophotocoagulation (66710, 66711)

▲ Revised Code Definition ● New Code

Cyclophotocoagulation is a treatment for glaucoma. The ciliary body is treated with laser pulses to decrease its production of aqueous humor. This in turn decreases intraocular pressure.

There are two CP approaches:

- transscleral (TCP) 66710
- endoscopic (ECP) 66711



In TCP, a G-probe pulses the laser through the conjunctiva and sclera to reach the ciliary body. In other words, it's externally placed.

In ECP, an endoscope is inserted through the anterior chamber of the eye. In other words, it's internally placed. This allows direct visualization of the ciliary body for more precise targeting of the laser.



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