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Plasmin-Assisted Vitrectomy

Policy Number: HS-122

Original Effective Date: 8/13/2009

Revised Date(s): 8/20/2010; 8/2/2011

DISCLAIMER

The Clinical Coverage Guideline is intended to supplement certain standard WellCare benefit plans. The terms of a member's particular Benefit Plan, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, etc., may differ significantly from this Coverage Position. For example, a member's benefit plan may contain specific exclusions related to the topic addressed in this Clinical Coverage Guideline. When a conflict exists between the two documents, the Member's Benefit Plan always supersedes the information contained in the Clinical Coverage Guideline. Additionally, Clinical Coverage Guidelines relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans and are NOT recommendations for treatment, nor should they be used as treatment guidelines. The application of the Clinical Coverage Guideline is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations and state-specific Medicaid mandates, if any.

APPLICATION STATEMENT

The application of the Clinical Coverage Guideline is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations and state-specific Medicaid mandates, if any.

BACKGROUND

Plasmin, a non-specific serine protease mediating fibrinolysis, has properties to hydrolyze a variety of glycoproteins, including laminin and fibronectin. By degrading the links between these components of the vitreoretinal interface and the inner limiting membrane (ILM), therapeutic posterior vitreous detachment (PVD) has become possible. In controlled experiments in postmortem porcine eyes, enzymatic action alone is sufficient to induce PVD. However, there are remnants of cortical vitreous remaining adherent to the ILM depending on the dose and exposure time of Plasmin.

Enzymatic vitrectomy is envisaged to augment or even replace conventional vitrectomy by proposed means of less surgical risks, less surgeon time, lower costs, and a transition to office-based vitreoretinal procedures. However, there are few data concerning the effect of plasmin at the vitreoretinal interface of human eyes. Especially the impact of plasmin as an enzymatic adjunct to vitrectomy has not been studied and published as yet.

Further studies are now required to investigate the short- and long-term complications of the different surgical techniques. Before plasmin-assisted vitrectomy may be regarded as a viable alternative or adjunct to vitrectomy, central questions of efficacy and safety need to be addressed. Nevertheless, plasmin-assisted vitrectomy holds the promise of creating a raft of new therapeutic strategies for a variety of vitreoretinal diseases.

POSITION STATEMENT

Plasmin-assisted vitrectomy is considered experimental and investigational.

CODING

Non Covered CPT®* Codes

67299 Unlisted procedure posterior segment of eye

ICD-9-CM Procedure Codes

14.79 Other operations on vitreous

HCPCS Codes - No applicable codes

Non-Covered ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Codes

361.00 - 361.07 Retinal detachment with retinal defect
361.2 Serous retinal detachment
361.81 - 361.89 Other forms of retinal detachment
362.01 - 362.06 Diabetic retinopathy
362.07 Diabetic macular edema
362.42 Serous detachment of retinal pigment epithelium
362.43 Hemorrhagic detachment of retinal pigment epithelium
362.53 Cystoid macular degeneration of retina
362.54 Macular cyst, hole, or pseudohole
362.56 Macular puckering
362.83 Retinal edema
379.23 Vitreous hemorrhage

*Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 2010 American Medical Association: Chicago, IL.®©

REFERENCES

Peer Reviewed

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2. Diaz-Llopis, et al. Enzymatic Vitrectomy by Intravitreal Autologous Plasmin Injection, as Initial Treatment for Diffuse Diabetic Macular Edema. Arch Soc Esp Ophthal 2008; 83: 77-84.
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4. Uemura, et al. Effect of Plasmin on Laminin and Fibronectin During Plasmin-Assisted Vitrectomy. Arch Ophthalmol. 2005; 123: 209-213.
5. Vinekar, et al. Plasmin-Assisted Vitrectomy for Bilateral Combined Hamartoma of the Retina and Retinal Pigment Epithelium: Histopathology, Immunohistochemistry, and Optical Coherence Tomography. Retinal Cases & Brief Reports: Spring 2009 - Volume 3 - Issue 2 - pp 186-189.
6. Wu, et al. Pediatric Traumatic Macular Hole: Results of Autologous Plasmin Enzyme-Assisted Vitrectomy. Volume 144, Issue 5, Pages 668-672.e2 (November 2007).

Government Agencies, Professional and Medical Organizations

N/A

HISTORY AND REVISIONS

Date	Action
12/1/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New template design approved by MPC.
8/2/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved by MPC. No changes.