Pulsed Dye Laser Therapy for Cutaneous Vascular Lesions

Last Review Date: July 8, 2020  Number: MG.MM.SU.46aC8

Definitions

Pulsed dye laser (PDL) emits a specific color or light wavelength that can be varied in intensity and pulse duration. When this light energy interacts with the hemoglobin found in accessible blood vessels comprising a cutaneous lesion, heat is generated that destroys the vessels within the targeted lesion while sparing the surrounding tissue.

Refinement of the technology includes a cryogen spray cooled (CSC) that involves the application of a cryogen spurt to the skin milliseconds prior to laser irradiation. This cools the epidermis thereby reducing thermal injury during treatment.

Guideline

See also Cosmetic Surgery Procedures

Members with port wine stains and hemangiomata are eligible for PDL, with or without local topical or general anesthesia. Coverage will be considered until the lesion is gone or when maximum efficacy has been achieved.

Any of the following criteria must be demonstrated as met:

1. Presence of port wine stains in children and adults when a prescription (Rx) is required to alleviate or prevent clinical complications.
2. Presence of superficial hemangiomas or the superficial component of mixed hemangiomas in infants and children when a definitive Rx is required to alleviate or prevent clinical complications.
3. Presence of post involutional hemangiomas and telangiectasias in infants and children when a definitive Rx is required to alleviate or prevent clinical complications.

Documentation

1. Initial pre-treatment photos.
2. Post-treatment photos (for treatment requests beyond 3 cycles, or 6 months; each cycle consists of up to 2 months).
Limitations/Exclusions
Requests for cherry angiomas and pyogenic granulomas will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Applicable Procedure Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17106</td>
<td>Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); less than 10 sq cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17107</td>
<td>Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); 10.0 to 50.0 sq cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17108</td>
<td>Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); over 50.0 sq cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicable ICD-10 Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D18.01</td>
<td>Hemangioma of skin and subcutaneous tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q82.5</td>
<td>Congenital non-neoplastic nevus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References

Specialty-matched clinical peer review.