

Medicare Advantage Medical Policy



MA: PERCUTANEOUS DISC PROCEDURES, INCLUDING PERCUTANEOUS, LASER DISC DECOMPRESSION, PERCUTANEOUS RADIOFREQUENCY DISC DECOMPRESSION AND PERCUTANEOUS SPINAL DISCECTOMY

EFFECTIVE 01/01/2024

Policy

- I. Intradiscal electrothermal therapy (IDET) is considered **investigational**.
- II. Endoscopic discectomy is considered **investigational** as a technique of intervertebral disc decompression in patients with back pain and/or radiculopathy related to disc herniation in the lumbar, thoracic, or cervical spine.
- III. Percutaneous intradiscal radiofrequency thermocoagulation, percutaneous laser disc decompression, and percutaneous spinal discectomy are **investigational** for all indications

Description

Intradiscal Electrothermal Therapy (IDET) is a minimally invasive treatment for discogenic low back pain intended to treat the protein wall of the disc and reduce the volume of disc material that causes nerve irritation.

Percutaneous intradiscal radiofrequency thermocoagulation In this procedure, the radiofrequency probe is placed into the center of the disc rather than around the annulus, and the device is activated for only 90 seconds at a temperature of 70 degrees centigrade. The mechanism of action of this procedure is not precisely understood, but is thought to be related to reducing the nociceptive pain input from the free nerve ending in the outer annulus fibrosis.

Percutaneous laser disc decompression (PLDD) is a procedure in which herniated intervertebral discs are treated by reduction of intradiscal pressure through laser energy.

The laser is introduced by a needle inserted into the nucleus pulposus under local anesthesia and fluoroscopic monitoring. The volume of nucleus vaporized results in a sharp fall of intradiscal pressure, with consequent migration of the herniation away from the nerve root.

Percutaneous spinal discectomy is a procedure in which the disc decompression is accomplished by the physical removal of disc material rather than its ablation. Originally, spinal discectomy was performed manually, using cutting forceps to remove nuclear material from within the disc annulus. This technique has been replaced with automated devices that involve placement of a probe within the intervertebral disc and aspiration of disc material using a suction cutting device.

CODES

S2348	22526	22527	62287	62292	62380
0R533ZZ	0R553ZZ	0R593ZZ	0R5B3ZZ	0R933ZZ	0R953ZZ
0R993ZZ	0R9B3ZZ	0RB33ZZ	0RB34ZZ	0RB53ZZ	0RB54ZZ
0RB93ZZ	0RB94ZZ	0RBB3ZZ	0RBB4ZZ	0RC33ZZ	0RC34ZZ
0RC53ZZ	0RC93ZZ	0RC94ZZ	0RCB3ZZ	0RCB4ZZ	0RQ33ZZ
0RQ34ZZ	0RQ53ZZ	0RQ54ZZ	0RQ93ZZ	0RQ94ZZ	0RQB3ZZ
0RQB3ZZ	0RQB4ZZ	0S523ZZ	0SS43ZZ	0S923ZZ	0S924ZZ
0S943ZZ	0S944ZZ	0SB23ZZ	0SB24ZZ	0SB43ZZ	0SB43ZZ
0SB44ZZ	0SC23ZZ	0SC24ZZ	0SC43ZZ	0SC44ZZ	

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