Request for New ICD-10-CM Codes to Describe Large and Small Annular Defects Following Lumbar/Lumbosacral Discectomy

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Disclosures

- Consultant
  - Medtronic
  - Globus Medical
  - IMSE
  - Integrity Implants
  - Intrinsic Therapeutics

Annular Defects Following Lumbar/Lumbosacral Discectomy

Lumbar/lumbosacral discectomy is the surgical standard for treating debilitating chronic pain caused by lumbar/lumbosacral disc herniation

During discectomy, the affected vertebrae and disc are exposed. The disc that has herniated is surgically removed to decompress any impinged nerves.

During the herniation event, the annulus fibrosus may rupture, creating an annular defect.

Large annular defects require treatment and definitive closure to prevent reherniation

Small annular defects require no treatment

New ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are needed to accurately represent small and large annular defects in patients, so that outcomes data may be reported and tracked in claims.

ICD-10-CM Codes Needed to Describe Annular Defect Size

- Following lumbar discectomy, symptom recurrence related to reherniation is reported in 7 to 18% of patients[1]
- Risk of recurrence following discectomy varies based on the presence and size of the annular defects
- Patients with large annular defects have a higher risk of reherniation and need reoperation compared to those with small defects – as much as 2.5 times greater[2]
- It is important to measure the size of the annular defect and determine if additional treatment is needed to close the annular defect
- Symptomatic reherniation is associated with poor clinical outcomes and often requires a major invasive and technically demanding reoperation
- Large annular defects may be effectively treated with a bone-anchored annular closure device

[1] Lorio M, Kim C, Araghi A, Inzana J, Yue JJ. International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery Policy 2019—Surgical Treatment of Lumbar Disc Herniation with Radiculopathy. *International Journal of Spine Surgery*. 2020; 14:1–17.
[2] Miller LE, McGirt MJ, Garfin SR, Bono CM. Association of Annular Defect Width After Lumbar Discectomy With Risk of Symptom Recurrence and Reoperation: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Comparative Studies. Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2018;43(5):E308-E315.

Questions?