



Western Australian Coding Rule

0316/06 Radiostereometric analysis (RSA) beads in total hip replacement

Q.

Should tantalum RSA beads inserted during a total hip replacement be coded?

A.

Radiostereometric analysis (RSA) is an imaging technique which involves taking x-rays from two different directions at the same time, creating a 'stereo' image. RSA x-rays can be used to assess the components of a hip arthroplasty after implantation. Thus, the patient's progress can be measured and the information can be used for research to improve implant design and technology for future patients.

To precisely measure implant position on RSA images, beads are inserted into the bone surrounding the implant at the time of operation. The beads are about the size of a poppy seed and are made of tantalum, a metal that is used in prosthetic implants and is well tolerated by the body. These beads become stably integrated into the bone and can be used as references with which to detect any change in position of the implant components.

Clinical advice indicates that a procedure code is not necessary for the implantation of tantalum RSA beads. They are a component of the total hip replacement procedure.

DECISION

Tantalum RSA beads inserted during a total hip replacement do not need to be coded separately. They are a component of the total hip replacement procedure.

[Effective 30 March 2016, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]