Western Australian Coding Rule

0414/01  Detorsion of ovaries

Q.
Could you please confirm the correct coding for the procedure ‘detorsion of ovary’.

A.
Ovarian torsion refers to the complete or partial rotation of the ovary on its ligamentous supports, often resulting in reduction of its blood supply. It is one of the most common gynaecologic emergencies and may affect females of all ages. The fallopian tube often twists along with the ovary; when this occurs, it is referred to as adnexal/tubal torsion. Similarly, torsion of paratubal and paraovarian cysts can occur.

Prompt diagnosis is important to preserve ovarian and/or tubal function. However, making the diagnosis can be challenging because the symptoms are relatively nonspecific.

The standard option to treat twisted ischemic adnexa was adnexectomy (oophorectomy) without untwisting. The risks of thromboembolism were thought to be so high that oophorectomy was recommended for all patients regardless of age. The fear of unwinding the pedicles of ovarian torsion is based on the assumption that thrombus in the ovarian vein would be released into the systemic circulation by this procedure. However, more recent studies have shown no cases of pulmonary or other embolism from a thrombosed ovarian vein.

Adnexal torsion patients can now have the option of detorsion (laparoscopic or via laparotomy) without oophorectomy or salpingo-oophorectomy, in an attempt to preserve ovarian function. In an effort to prevent recurrence, oophoropexy can be performed by fixing the ovarian ligament to the round ligament, abdominal wall etc.

Since there is no indexed procedure for detorsion of ovary in ACHI, we will send this query to the NCCH. In the meantime, the best code to assign is from block 1246, depending on the approach:

90430-00 [1246] Other laparoscopic repair of ovary
90430-01 [1246] Other repair of ovary

If an oophoropexy to fix the ovary in place is also performed, a code for that should also be assigned.

DECISION
We will forward this query to the NCCH. In the meantime, detorsion of ovary should be coded to either 90430-00 [1246] Other laparoscopic repair of ovary or 90430-01 [1246] Other repair of ovary. If oophoropexy is also performed, a code for that should also be assigned.

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