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34th Diagnostic Technology Report

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Excerpts from:

Coding for High-Tech Tools

Better tools in our toolbox means that we need to take care when using and coding them.

By Joe DeLoach, O.D. Edited by John Rumpakis, O.D., M.B.A., Clinical Coding Editor

8/19/2011

Visual Evoked Potential

Electrodiagnostic testing of the vision system is not new technology, but electrodiagnostic instrumentation that is clinically usable and affordable is. Select visual evoked potential (VEP) analysis can now be performed on both eyes in less than 10 minutes. Examining the local and cortical vision impulse can be powerfully diagnostic to differentiate optic nerve disorders and reduced vision of unknown etiology. Possibly most interesting is the clinically documented use of VEP measurements in the early diagnosis of glaucoma.²

VEP electrodiagnosis is billed with CPT code 95930. It is a bilateral code and many Medicare contractors and medical payers have a published payment policy for use of VEP, often bundled under a more general electrodiagnosis category.

Full article: http://www.revoptom.com/content/d/coding_abstract/i/1603/c/29676/

Testing One, Two, Three...

You may be done with back-to-school shopping, but have you prepped your practice for another year of testing? Study up on a few of the latest diagnostic technologies.

By Colleen Mullarkey, Senior Editor/Senior Web Editor

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Nova-DN VEP Vision Testing System

The Diopsys NOVA-DN uses short duration transient Visual Evoked Potential technology (SD-tVEP) to record the electrical responses of a patient's entire vision system. It provides easy-to-read reports that give the doctor a simple way to evaluate optic nerve function and optic nerve disease, including glaucoma and other neurovisual disorders.

"It's a way of looking at the entire pathway of vision," Dr. Sherman says. "It's a completely objective test; hence, it can be used for infants, children, and patients with very subtle abnormalities that we may not be able to pick up with standard tests."

The test takes between four and six minutes, and doctors are able to compare tests over time to track disease progression. Clinicians may use VEP in addition to traditional testing methods to enhance diagnosis and treatment of functional disorders.

A recent paper in the Journal of Glaucoma showed it to be a fast, objective method to screen for functional damage in glaucomatous eyes, and Dr. Sherman believes it will also prove to be extremely useful in assessing patients who have loss of function from conditions such as multiple sclerosis or other central nervous system disorders.²



Full article: http://www.revoptom.com/content/d/annual_diagnostic_technology_report/i/1603/c/29679/