



Radiology Views™ Newsletter – May 2011

ABDOMINAL AORTOGRAPHY WITH RUN-OFF – GET PROPER CREDIT FOR YOUR EFFORT

75625	(RVU 1.14)	ABDOMINAL AORTOGRAM
75716	(RVU 1.31)	BILATERAL EXTREMITY ANGIOGRAM
75630	(RVU 1.79)	ABDOMINAL AORTOGRAM PLUS BILATERAL ILIOFEMORAL LOWER EXTREMITY RUN-OFF

CPT codes are valued to reflect the degree of difficulty in performing a certain procedure or service. They are assigned based on your documentation. For angiography, it is important to identify the specific location of each catheter placement. And when it comes to abdominal aortography with run-off, you not only have to document that the catheter was in the aorta, but also identify where it was in the aorta (e.g., suprarenal, infrarenal, aortic bifurcation). Coding assignments are made based on this information.

ONE STUDY:

One way to perform abdominal aortography with bilateral extremity run-off is with a single catheter placement within the aorta.

Example: "The catheter was advanced from a left common femoral access to the abdominal aorta and a run-off study was performed." RVUs and CPTs assigned:

RVU 3.02 CPT 36200 Catheter in aorta
RVU 1.79 CPT 75630 Abdominal aortogram
TOTAL RVUs 4.81

TWO STUDIES:

Another way to perform abdominal aortography with bilateral extremity run-off is with two catheter placements within the aorta. The first placement is in the suprarenal aorta and then the second placement is when the catheter is pulled down to the aortic bifurcation. As long as imaging and interpretation is provided, both studies can be coded.

Example: "The catheter was advanced from a left common femoral access to the suprarenal aorta, and abdominal aortography is performed. The catheter was then pulled down to the aortic bifurcation, and bilateral extremity run-off was performed."

RVU 3.02 CPT 36200 Catheter in aorta
RVU 1.14 CPT 75625 Abdominal aortogram
RVU 1.31 CPT 75716 Bilateral extremity angiogram
TOTAL RVUs 5.47

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- When a study is performed of the aorta, iliac, and femoral arteries and you are able to visualize the pelvic arteries without the catheter being selectively placed within a pelvic artery, CPT 75736 Pelvic Arteriogram cannot be additionally assigned.
- When two studies are performed, clearly document that the catheter was positioned above the renal arteries and then pulled back down to the aortic bifurcation. Note: Two catheter placements, both of which are placed low in the aorta (infrarenal), do not constitute two separate studies. If catheter placement or repositioning is not clearly described, a lesser exam may be coded.
- Assignment of a supervision and interpretation code is not based on the injection of contrast alone. If the documentation states that contrast was injected and a study was performed, but there is no interpretation to support the study, the supervision and interpretation code cannot be assigned.

Do you have a topic that you would like to see covered in the newsletter? Please contact: Wendy Block, at 330.564.2618 or wblock@prcmedical.com.