

SEER Inquiry System - Report

Produced: 03/28/2024 5:20 AM

Question 20210044

References:

Heme & Lymph Manual & DB. September 2020; Effective with Cases Diagnosed 1/1/2010 and Forward

Question:

Diagnostic Confirmation--Heme & Lymphoid Neoplasms--Plasma Cell Myeloma: Can serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP) be used as a definitive diagnostic method in the absence of a bone marrow biopsy? Is it appropriate to assign code 5 (Positive laboratory test/marker study) if there is no histological confirmation? See Discussion.

Discussion:

Patient was diagnosed with lambda myeloma based on the M spike found on serum protein electrophoresis. A bone marrow biopsy was performed, but it was an insufficient sample.

SPEP is not listed in the Hematopoietic Database as a lab test that can be used as a definitive diagnostic method. Since the physician did base the diagnosis on the SPEP result, would it be appropriate to assign code 5 (Positive laboratory test/marker study) since there was no histological confirmation?

Under code 5, the Hematopoietic Manual states: Laboratory tests are listed under Definitive Diagnostic Methods in the Hematopoietic Database.

Answer:

Assign code 5 in Diagnostic Confirmation. We consulted with an expert hematopathologist who stated that SPEP would qualify for a diagnostic confirmation code of 5. He also stated that normally a SPEP is followed by a bone marrow biopsy.

SPEP has been added to the Definitive Diagnostic Methods for plasma cell myeloma (9732/3).

Cancer Site Category:

Heme & Lymphoid Neoplasms

Data Item Category:

Diagnostic confirmation

Other Category:

N/A

Year:

2021