

(20116)

Medical Benefit		Effective Date: 10/01/15	Next Review Date: 07/18
Preauthorization	No	Review Dates: 09/10, 07/11, 07/12, 05/13, 05/14, 05/15, 07/15, 07/16, 07/17	

Preauthorization is not required.

The following protocol contains medical necessity criteria that apply for this service. The criteria are also applicable to services provided in the local Medicare Advantage operating area for those members, unless separate Medicare Advantage criteria are indicated. If the criteria are not met, reimbursement will be denied and the patient cannot be billed. Please note that payment for covered services is subject to eligibility and the limitations noted in the patient's contract at the time the services are rendered.

Populations	Interventions	Comparators	Outcomes
Individuals: • With chronic wounds	Interventions of interest are: • Platelet-rich plasma	Comparators of interest are: • Standard wound care	Relevant outcomes include: • Symptoms • Change in disease status • Morbid events • Quality of life • Treatment-related morbidity
Individuals: • With acute surgical or traumatic wounds	Interventions of interest are: • Platelet-rich plasma	Comparators of interest are: • Standard wound care	Relevant outcomes include: • Symptoms • Change in disease status • Morbid events • Quality of life • Treatment-related morbidity

Description

The use of blood-derived growth factors, such as platelet-rich plasma (PRP), has been suggested as a treatment of wounds or other miscellaneous non-orthopedic conditions, including but not limited to, diabetic ulcers, pressure ulcers, ulcers related to venous stasis, and surgical and traumatic wounds.

Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have chronic wounds or acute surgical or traumatic wounds who receive platelet-rich plasma (PRP), the evidence includes a number of small controlled trials. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, morbid events, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. The potential benefit of PRP has received considerable interest due to its appeal as a simple, safe, low-cost, and minimally invasive method of applying growth factors. Current results of trials using PRP are mixed and the studies are limited in both size and quality. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Policy

Use of autologous blood-derived preparations (i.e., platelet-rich plasma) is considered **investigational** for the treatment of acute or chronic wounds, including surgical wounds and nonhealing ulcers.

Policy Guidelines

Note: This protocol does not address becaplermin.

Medicare Advantage

For Medicare Advantage members there may be potential for benefit under coverage with evidence development (CED).

Background

A variety of growth factors have been found to play a role in wound healing, including platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), epidermal growth factor, fibroblast growth factors, transforming growth factors, and insulin-like growth factors. Autologous platelets are a rich source of PDGF, transforming growth factors (that function as a mitogen for fibroblasts, smooth muscle cells, and osteoblasts), and vascular endothelial growth factors.

Autologous platelet concentrate suspended in plasma, also known as PRP, can be prepared from samples of centrifuged autologous blood. Exposure to a solution of thrombin and calcium chloride degranulates platelets, releasing various growth factors, and results in the polymerization of fibrin from fibrinogen, creating a platelet gel. The platelet gel can then be applied to wounds or may be used as an adjunct to surgery to promote hemostasis and accelerate healing. In the operating room setting, PRP has been investigated as an adjunct to a variety of periodontal, reconstructive, and orthopedic procedures. For example, bone morphogenetic proteins are a type of transforming growth factor, and thus PRP has been used in conjunction with bone-replacement grafting (using either autologous grafts or bovine-derived xenograft) in periodontal and maxillofacial surgeries.

PRP is distinguished from fibrin glues or sealants, which have been used for many years as a surgical adjunct to promote local hemostasis at incision sites. Fibrin glue is created from platelet-poor plasma and consists primarily of fibrinogen. Commercial fibrin glues are created from pooled homologous human donors; Tisseel® (Baxter International) and Hemaseel® (Haemacure Corp.) are examples of commercially available fibrin sealants. Autologous fibrin sealants can also be created from platelet-poor plasma. This protocol does not address the use of fibrin sealants.

Wound Closure Outcomes

This protocol addresses the use of PRP for nonorthopedic indications, which include a number of wound closure-related indications.

For the purposes of this review, the primary end points of interest for studies of wound closure are as follows, consistent with guidance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for industry in developing products for treatment of chronic cutaneous ulcer and burn wounds¹:

1. Incidence of complete wound closure.
2. Time to complete wound closure (reflecting accelerated wound closure).
3. Incidence of complete wound closure following surgical wound closure.

4. Pain control.

Regulatory Status

FDA regulates human cells and tissues intended for implantation, transplantation, or infusion through the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, under Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) title 21, parts 1270 and 1271. Blood products such as PRP are included in these regulations.

Under these regulations, certain products including blood products such as PRP are exempt and therefore, do not follow the traditional FDA regulatory pathway. To date, FDA has not attempted to regulate activated PRP.²

Numerous PRP preparation systems have been cleared for marketing by FDA through the 510(k) process. The use of different devices and procedures can lead to variable concentrations of active platelets and associated proteins, increasing variability between studies of clinical efficacy.

Related Protocols

Bioengineered Skin and Soft Tissue Substitutes

Electrostimulation and Electromagnetic Therapy for Treating Wounds

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy in the Outpatient Setting

Orthopedic Applications of Platelet-Rich Plasma

Services that are the subject of a clinical trial do not meet our Technology Assessment Protocol criteria and are considered investigational. *For explanation of experimental and investigational, please refer to the Technology Assessment Protocol.*

It is expected that only appropriate and medically necessary services will be rendered. We reserve the right to conduct prepayment and postpayment reviews to assess the medical appropriateness of the above-referenced procedures. **Some of this protocol may not pertain to the patients you provide care to, as it may relate to products that are not available in your geographic area.**

References

We are not responsible for the continuing viability of web site addresses that may be listed in any references below.

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