

Eagle's Syndrome

Q: How do I code for Eagle's Syndrome and its treatment?

A: Eagle's syndrome is a condition caused by an elongated styloid process or calcified stylohyoid ligament. Symptoms may include dull pain of the throat, neck and face, dysphagia, and foreign body sensation of the throat. Treatment of this syndrome is usually done by surgically shortening the styloid process.

As there is no specific ICD-9 code for the syndrome, it is best to code for symptoms presented by the patient. They are typically facial pain (784.0), throat pain (784.1), neck pain (723.1) and dysphasia (784.5). Other options may be trigeminal neuralgia (350.1) or other disorders of muscle, ligament and fascia (728.89).

When coding for shortening of the styloid process use CPT code 21499 *Unlisted musculoskeletal procedure, head*. Make sure your operative note clearly details the procedure performed.

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