

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER 2
SECTION 4.11
TITLE: GDC - ENDOVASCULAR COILING FOR UNRUPTURED
INTRACRANIAL ANEURYSMS

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272 (a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2)(i)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE(S)

July 14, 1997

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

61700

III. DESCRIPTION

The Guglielmi Detachable Coil (GDC) is an extremely fine wire made from platinum, one of the softest metals, at the end of a longer stainless steel wire. In a controlled manner, the surgeon uses a micro-catheter to thread each coil through blood vessels to the aneurysm site. Application of a very-low-voltage electric current detaches and releases the coil into the aneurysm. Once in place, the GDC coils fill the aneurysm, isolating it from circulation to reduce the likelihood of rupture and hemorrhagic stroke. By applying a low voltage direct current to a stainless steel wire at the base of the coil, the platinum coil is detached. This applied current not only detaches the coil but also promotes electrothrombosis within the aneurysm.

IV. POLICY

The GDC may be cost shared for embolizing unruptured intracranial aneurysms that, because of their morphology, their location, or the patient's general medical condition, are considered by the treating neurosurgical team to be:

1. very high risk for management by traditional operative techniques;
2. inoperable; and
3. for embolizing other vascular malformation such as arteriovenous malformations and arteriovenous fistulae of the neurovasculature, to include arterial and venous embolizations in the peripheral vasculature.

V. EXCLUSIONS

Endovascular GDC for treatment of wide-necked aneurysms and ruptures.

END OF POLICY