

merci retrieval procedure

Endovascular Mechanical Embolectomy/Thrombectomy of Ischemic Stroke

Physician CPT Coding

THROMBECTOMY CODES

37184	Primary percutaneous mechanical thrombectomy, including fluoroscopic guidance and intraprocedural thrombolytic injections; initial vessel
+37185	~primary thrombectomy procedure for second and all subsequent vessel(s) within the same vascular family.
+37186	Secondary percutaneous mechanical thrombectomy including fluoroscopic guidance and intraprocedural thrombolytic injections. Provided in conjunction with another percutaneous intervention other than primary mechanical thrombectomy

CATHETERIZATION

Code	Order	Used For
36215	First	L common carotid
36216	Second	R common carotid, L internal carotid, L external carotid, L vertebral
36217	Third	R internal carotid, R external carotid, R vertebral, basilar, all cerebral arteries
+36218	Second, Third	Additional second- and third-order vessels within the same family

Note: For each separate access, code the highest order vessel catheterized for each vascular family. For multiple selective catheter placements, a modifier may be required.

Key Words for Physician Documentation

- Mechanical Thrombectomy/Embolectomy
- Merci Retrieval System
- Cerebral/Precerebral Arteries
- Intracranial Vessels
- Ischemic Stroke
- Selective Catheter Placement



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DIAGNOSTIC ANGIOGRAPHY WITH SUPERVISION & INTERPRETATION

75650-26	Angiography, S&I, cervico-cerebral, including vessel origin (i.e. aortic arch)
75660-26	Angiography, S&I, external carotid, unilateral
75662-26	Angiography, S&I, external carotid, bilateral
75665-26	Angiography, S&I, carotid, cerebral (i.e. internal carotid), unilateral
75671-26	Angiography, S&I, carotid, cerebral (i.e. internal carotid), bilateral
75676-26	Angiography, S&I, carotid, cervical (i.e. common carotid), unilateral
75680-26	Angiography, S&I, carotid, cervical (i.e. common carotid), bilateral
75685-26	Angiography, S&I vertebral, basilar, cervical, and/or intracranial
+75774-26	Angiography, S&I, selective, each additional vessel studied after basic exam

Note: Some codes may be used in combination when the catheter is repositioned, the site is separately injected, and full evaluation of the site is performed.

CONTINUOUS INFUSION (IF PERFORMED)

37201-59	Transcatheter therapy, infusion for thrombolysis other than coronary
75896-26	Transcatheter therapy infusion, any method, S&I
75898-26	Angiography through existing catheter for follow-up study for transcatheter therapy, embolization or infusion

Note: Continuous infusion of a thrombolytic agent either *before* or *after* the intervention can be coded separately.

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Please refer to the 2008 Physician Coding Guide for additional information. Available at www.concentric-medical.com.

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