

## Comments

### **LCD Title**

Venous Angioplasty with or without Stent Placement for the Treatment of Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency

### **Contractor's Determination Number**

CV-042

#### **1. Comment**

Since I do not personally perform CCSVI, I asked my colleagues at the Society of Interventional Radiology for comment. They agree that there is a lack of US literature backing CCSVI. However, the society has initiated plans to research this technology in a responsible way and avoid taking advantage of patients desperate for a cure. The SIR recommendation is to pay for the procedure if done as part of a clinical trial.

#### **2. Comment**

Some clinical trials are underway - by no means proven or accepted yet - very controversial. Many believe even clinical trials are premature, let alone providing the treatment.

#### **3. Comment**

Jugular vein angioplasty is a promising and novel treatment for multiple sclerosis refractory to conventional therapy. This is a hot and controversial topic among senior Society of Interventional Researchers who are arguing on how to proceed with the development and coordination of research on this therapy. I have attached the SIR position statement of one year ago. Not much has changed in the interim. The procedure is clearly investigational and should be done as part of research protocol authorized by an independent hospital board of review. It is inappropriate to offer this service in an entrepreneurial outpatient facility until it has been validated by research done in the US. I am concerned that vulnerable patients could be taken advantage of unless the procedure is done as part of coordinated research. I recommend that you deny AAC's request but reimburse the procedure if done on a research protocol.

#### **Response**

We agree that jugular vein angioplasty for MS is experimental and investigational. We do not believe it is ready for reimbursement under a research protocol.