

Refresher on how to code Zenkers Diverticulum

Zenker's Diverticulum is a pouch found off the cervical esophagus causing swallowing difficulties (Dysphagia), regurgitation, and weight loss to name some of the symptoms in patients affected by the disorder. When an Otolaryngologist performs open surgical excision of a Zenker's diverticulum, report CPT code 43130: *[Diverticulectomy of the hypopharynx or esophagus, with or without myotomy; cervical approach]*.

With advancing technology, however, most Otolaryngologist now choose to perform these excisions endoscopically. Currently, there is no code for the endoscopic removal of Zenker's' s diverticulum. To properly code for endoscopic removal of a Zenker's diverticulum, the Academy recommends use of the unlisted procedure code(s):

- 43499: Unlisted procedure, esophagus
- 43289: unlisted laparoscopy procedure, esophagus

Do not select a CPT code that only approximates the service provided. If no direct match to the procedure can be found, then you should report the most appropriate unlisted procedure code.

Reviewed July 2006