

Molina Healthcare

Coding Education

Senile Purpura



Senile purpura is common in patients over 65. These “spots” appear on sun-damaged forearms and dorsal hands, and are commonly referred to as solar, actinic, or Bateman purpura. They occur when minor trauma ruptures blood vessels and blood is extravasated into the dermis.

These lesions are seen more frequently in patients taking anticoagulants, antiplatelet agents, or corticosteroids. The discoloration usually lasts 1-3 weeks, and does not undergo color stages associated with a normal bruise. However, residual hyperpigmentation may persist.

Documentation Examples:

Initial Diagnosis

Assessment: 78 year old male with senile purpura. Multiple new painless ecchymoses on forearms, denies abnormal bleeding in other areas.

📌 **ICD-10 Code:** D69.2 Other nonthrombocytopenic purpura

Plan: Educated patient on importance of sun protection. Reassured of no significant other than the associated conditions

Established Diagnosis

Assessment: 80 year old female with senile purpura that continue to appear and resolve while on ASA. Asymptomatic, no other signs of bleeding.

📌 **ICD-10 Code:** D69.2 Other nonthrombocytopenic purpura

Plan: Urged use of protective gloves while working around the home to minimize risk of minor skin trauma.

Have Questions?

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