Q&A on the IRC2100™ Infrared Coagulator

What is infrared coagulation?

Infrared coagulation (IRC) is the most widely used office treatment for hemorrhoids. It is a noninvasive, nonsurgical procedure that is fast, well tolerated by patients, and virtually problem-free. More than 10 million people in the United States suffer from hemorrhoids, and thousands of patients are treated by their physicians, outside of a hospital setting, with the IRC2100™ Infrared Coagulator.

What kind of hemorrhoids can be treated?

Infrared coagulation is very effective in treating Grades I, II, and III internal hemorrhoids that are not permanently prolapsed and that have not successfully responded to other modalities. Unlike other treatment options, IRC can be performed on hemorrhoids near the dentate line, and is ideal for older patients and those in poor health who might not be candidates for more invasive surgery.

How is IRC performed?

This technique could not be simpler!

The IRC lightguide is placed in direct contact with the mucosa at the base of the hemorrhoid. Three to five 1.5-second adjacent exposures are applied, producing instantaneous coagulation without smoke, odor, or shock hazard. Coagulation is evidenced by the formation of a whitish eschar, which disappears as the hemorrhoid begins to shrink and recede. Most physicians treat 1 hemorrhoidal quadrant per session, and several sessions may be required to achieve optimum results. The actual number of treatments required is dependent upon the number and severity of the hemorrhoids, as well as individual patient response to treatment. While patient sensitivity may vary, most patients usually report feeling little more than a brief sensation of heat, but not acute pain. Local anesthesia is usually not required.

Is it safe and effective?

Millions of patients have been successfully treated with IRC for over 20 years. Thanks to IRC, doctors around the world have been able to offer hemorrhoid treatment in their offices, without the need for surgery. Patients appreciate treatment without a hospital stay, and being able to resume normal activities almost immediately, with little, if any, time away from work. Complications are rare, and there have been no reported incidents of sepsis or stricture.

How is IRC hemorrhoid treatment reimbursed?

IRC treatments are covered by Medicare and most other insurers. Typically, physicians utilize CPT code 46934, "Destruction of hemorrhoids—any method."

Where can I learn more?

The Redfield Corporation Web site includes several clinical studies documenting the efficacy of IRC hemorrhoid treatment, as well as an educational video that can also be downloaded. To access these materials, please visit www.IRC2100.com.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Redfield Corporation directly at 800-678-4472 or info@redfieldcorp.com.

