



STEPHEN L. BARRETT, DPM, FACFAS

Board Certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery, American Board of Podiatric Surgery
Board Certified in Podiatric Orthopedics, American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics

Dr. Paserchia, M.D.
Medical Officer
National Coverage Analysis

5/20/2003

Dear Dr. Paserchia,

Developer Endoscopic
Plantar Fasciotomy (EPF)
Patent #5269290

Developer Endoscopic
Decompression of
Intermetatarsal Nerve (EDIN)
Patent #5586564

Director of Surgical Training,
Institute for
Peripheral Nerve Surgery

Research Director
Houston Podiatric Foundation

I am writing this letter because of your call for information regarding coverage for clinical treatments with blood products. I have been using autologous platelet grafting with the Harvest Technology Smart Prep system for more than one year. The clinical results have been astounding, and I have the digital photography to back that statement up.

The procedure has been extremely effective in closing large wounds, and recalcitrant diabetic ulcerations, which have been refractory to other treatments. I have two clinical cases, where each had undergone more than 45 treatments of hyperbaric oxygen over several months. Both lesions were closed quickly and economically with autologous platelet grafting. I perform the technique in my office, and usually experience complete wound closure with between 2-3 treatments. One patient brought me his hyperbaric wound care center bill for more than \$68,000. He was closed with two treatments at about a cost of \$1,700, in 35 days.

Autologous platelet grafting should not be confused with platelet derived wound healing formulas like Procuren, and should therefore not be classified in the same category as Procuren. As you know, Procuren is a growth factor releasate with no platelets, white cells, fibrinogen, or other proteins other than already released growth factors. They are absolutely different products.

I am also using autologous platelet grafting for other surgical techniques like acceleration for delayed, or non-unions of osteotomy sites or fractures. The use of this type of product in bone healing is well documented.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide you with any further information.

Respectfully,

Stephen L. Barrett, D.P.M., FACFAS