

# Coding for Plantar Plate Repair

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# Plantar Plate Dysfunction

Plantar plate dysfunction is the attrition or frank rupture of the plantar plate.

It leads to plantar MTP joint instability with sagittal and frequently transverse plane subluxation and dislocation.

# Surgical Anatomy of the Plantar Plate Complex

It is designed to withstand compressive and tensile loads

Originates loosely from the metatarsal head; strongly attaches to the proximal phalanx base

The plantar plate is a flexible, sturdy, fibrocartilaginous structure composed primarily of type 1 collagen.

Receives insertional fibers from the lumbricals and interosseous tendons

In addition, the plantar plate also supplies the most significant distal attachments of the plantar fascia

# Surgical Anatomy of the Plantar Plate Complex

The ligamentous anatomy of the lesser MTP joint is analogous to the first MTP joint and is similarly stabilized by the proper collateral ligaments (PCL)

And accessory collateral ligaments (ACL)

The PCL provide primarily transverse plane stability, and their insufficiency has been linked to toe crossover

# Anatomy of the Plantar Plate

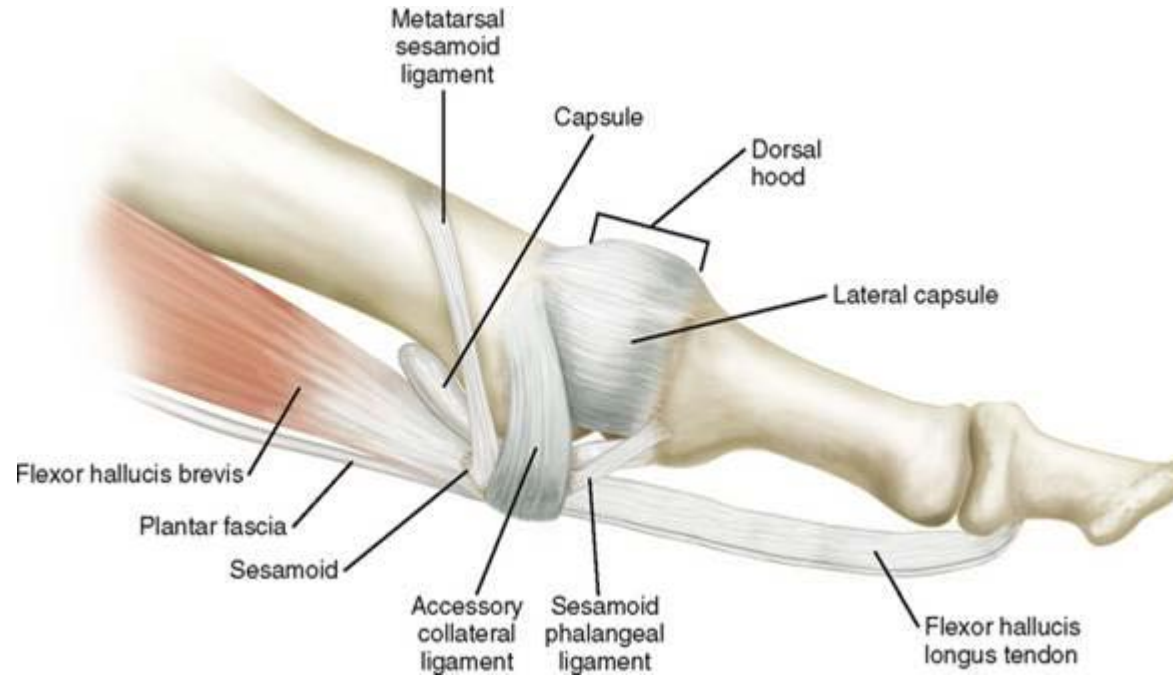


Illustration: Australasian Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine, December 3, 2013

# Anatomy of the Plantar Plate

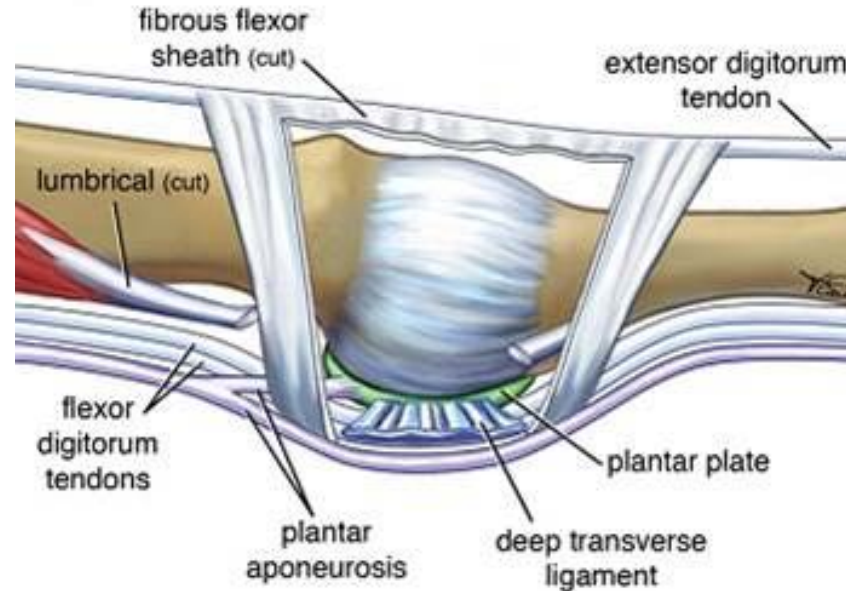


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# Anatomy of the Plantar Plate

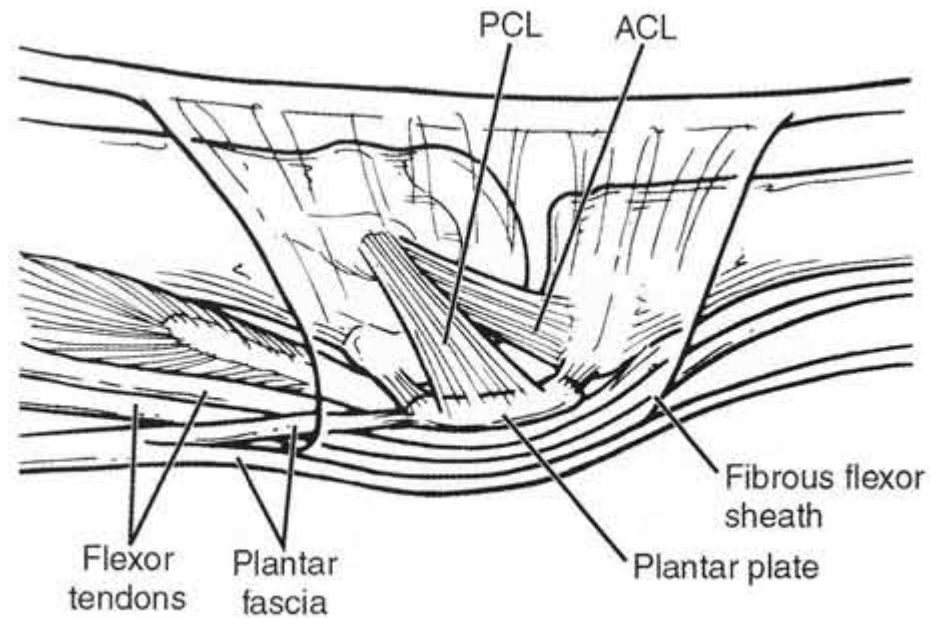
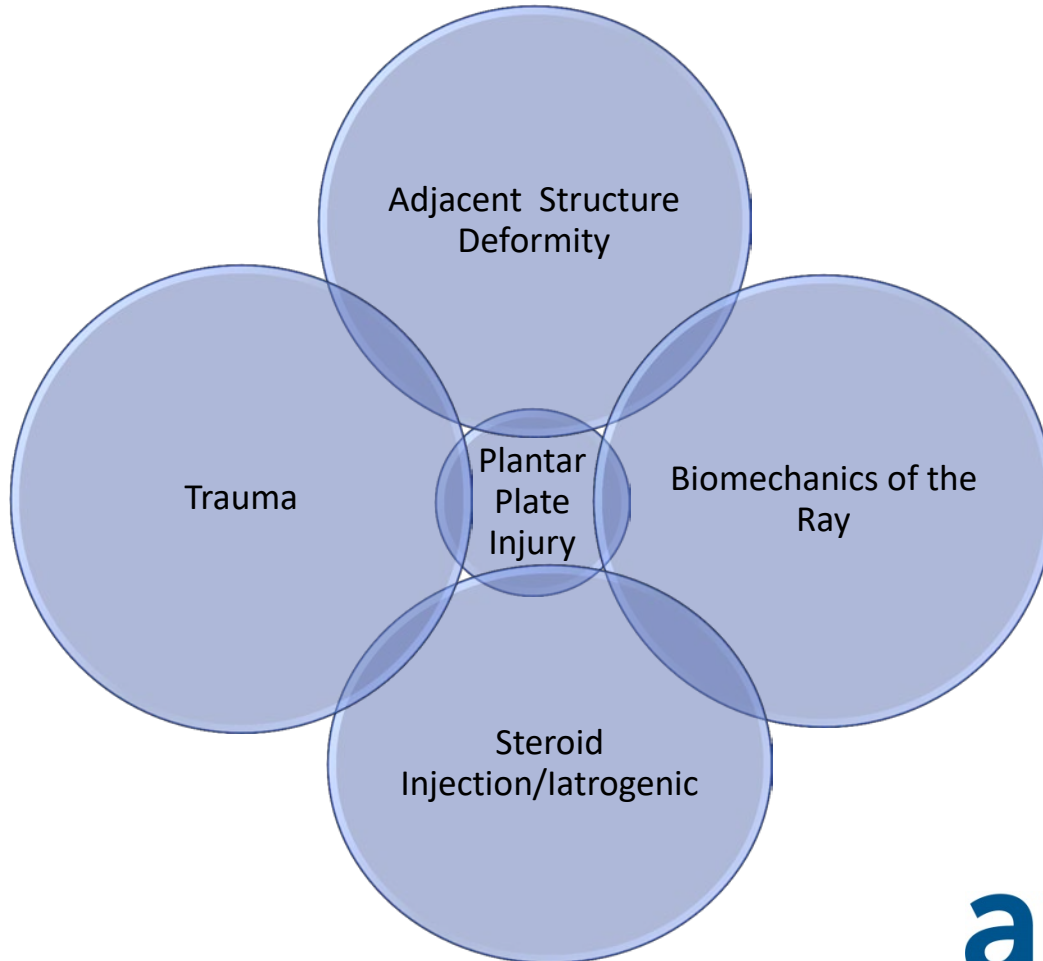


Illustration: Australasian Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine, December 3, 2013



# Diagnosis Codes for Plantar Plate Ruptures and Injuries



# Dx: Biomechanics of an Adjacent Structure

Bunions can increase pressure on the plantar plate. Large bunions that push on the 2<sup>nd</sup> toe can eventually underlap the toe, causing it to dislocate. This dislocation is caused by the thinning and stretching of the plantar plate resulting from the pressure generated by the bunion.

**M20.1-** Hallux Valgus

**M21.6-** Bunion

**M20.4-** Other hammertoe (s) [acquired]

**M20.6-** Acquired deformities of toe(s), unspecified

**M24.87-** Other specific joint derangements of foot, not elsewhere classified

“-” signifies that more characters are required to complete the code

# DX: Biomechanics of the Associated Ray

Biomechanical abnormalities include a short or elevated 1<sup>st</sup> metatarsal, or a long 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> metatarsal. These abnormalities put constant pressure on the plantar plate and contribute to its degeneration.

**M21.6X-** Other acquired deformities of foot

**M20.4-** Other hammertoe(s) [acquired]

**M24.57-** Contracture, ankle and foot [acquired]

**Q68.8** Other specified congenital musculoskeletal deformities

“-” signifies that more characters are required to complete the code

# DX: Steroids/Iatrogenic

Steroid injections can occasionally cause weakening and thinning of the plantar plate ligament. Patients who have steroid injections to help relieve pain in the ball of the foot may have noticed increasing deviation of the affected toe after the injection.

**M66.37-** Spontaneous rupture of flexor tendons, ankle and foot

**M66.87-** Spontaneous rupture of other tendons, ankle and foot

“-” signifies that more characters are required to complete the code

# DX:Trauma

Acute rupture or injury

**S96.21**-Unspecified injury of intrinsic muscle and tendon at ankle and foot level

**S96.29**- Other specified injury of intrinsic muscle and tendon at ankle and foot level

Old or previous ligamentous injury

**M24.27**- Disorder of ligament, foot

“-” signifies that more characters are required to complete the code

# CPT Codes for Plantar Plate Repair

# CPT Codes for Plantar Plate Repair

There is currently no CPT code for billing a complete plantar plate repair

What was repaired?

Ligament?

Tendon?

Ligament and tendon?

Reconstructive osseous work?

Grafting involved?

# CPT Codes for Plantar Plate Repair

For chronic synovitis without significant instability that is unresponsive to non-operative treatment, extensor longus lengthening, synovectomy and dorsal capsulotomy can be performed.

**CPT 28270** Capsulotomy; metatarsophalangeal joint, with or without tenorrhaphy, each joint (separate procedure)



# CPT Codes for Plantar Plate Repair

Transfer of the flexor tendon to the extensor and extensor digitorum brevis tendon transfer are other options to strengthen and stabilize the MTP joint and to correct any hammertoe or cross over toe deformity.

**CPT 28313** Reconstruction, angular deformity of toe, soft tissue procedure only (e.g., overlapping second toe, fifth toe, curly toes)

With hammertoe correction

**CPT 28285** Correction, hammertoe (e.g., interphalangeal fusion, partial or total phalangectomy)

# Where does the modifier go?

APMA CRC | CCI Edits Lookup

apmacodingrc.org/cciedits.asp?code=28285

apma Coding Resource Center

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Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative Edits (v25.2)

Enter the two procedures performed to find if there is a code pair edit and, if so, what type.

28285 28313 Go

**Code 28285** : (Return to code)  
Correction, hammertoe (eg, interphalangeal fusion, partial or total phalangectomy)

**Code 28313** : (Return to code)  
Reconstruction, angular deformity of toe, soft tissue procedures only (eg, overlapping second toe, fifth toe, curly toes)

The lists below shows the coding pairs associated with codes 28285 and 28313.

Code 1	Code 2	Indicator	Description
28285	28313	1	Correction, hammertoe (eg, interphalangeal fusion, partial or total phalangectomy)
28285	28313	1	Reconstruction, angular deformity of toe, soft tissue procedures only (eg, overlapping second toe, fifth toe, curly toes)

FEEDBACK / COMMENTS Choose Subject HELP CONTACT US

Type here to search 8:53 AM 12/6/2019

# Where does the modifier go?

The screenshot shows the APMA Coding Resource Center website. The main content area is titled "Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative Edits (v25.2)". It includes a search form with two input fields containing "28285" and "28313", and a "Go" button. Below the search form, there are two sections: "Code 28285 : (Return to code)" with the description "Correction, hammertoe (eg, interphalangeal fusion, partial or total phalangectomy)" and "Code 28313 : (Return to code)" with the description "Reconstruction, angular deformity of toe, soft tissue procedures only (eg, overlapping second toe, fifth toe, curly toes)". A table below these sections shows coding pairs for codes 28285 and 28313, with a "Modifier" column indicating "0 = Not Allowed", "1 = Allowed", and "9 = Not Applicable".

Code 1	Code 2	Indicator	Description
28285	28313	0 = Not Allowed	Correction, hammertoe (eg, interphalangeal fusion, partial or total phalangectomy)
28285	28313	1 = Allowed	Reconstruction, angular deformity of toe, soft tissue procedures only (eg, overlapping second toe, fifth toe, curly toes)
28285	28313	9 = Not Applicable	

# CPT Codes for Plantar Plate Repair

Plantar plate repair with a metatarsal osteotomy (weil-type)

Option 1:

**CPT 28200** Repair, tendon, flexor, foot; primary or secondary, without free graft, each tendon

&

**CPT 28308** Osteotomy, with or without lengthening, shortening, or angular correction, metatarsal; other than first metatarsal, each

Note: The appropriate diagnosis codes must be used to justify the use of these two codes since many payers may consider this “unbundling.”

# CPT Codes for Plantar Plate Repair

Plantar plate repair with a metatarsal osteotomy (weil-type)

Option 2:

**CPT 28899** (unlisted foot/toe procedure)

If you choose this, you would need to submit an operative report with a manual claim and request a peer to peer review.

Please note there is no plantar plate repair CPT code, so it is incumbent upon you to decide what best represents your procedure and if none of the options are pertinent, then you must use CPT 28899.

# CPT Codes for Plantar Plate Repair

Plantar plate repair with a weil osteotomy and fusion of hammertoe

**CPT 28200** Repair, tendon, flexor, foot; primary or secondary without free graft, each tendon

&

**CPT 28308** Osteotomy, with or without lengthening, shortening, angular correction, metatarsal; other than first metatarsal, each

&

**CPT 28285** Correction, hammertoe (e.g., interphalangeal fusion, partial or total phalangectomy)

# CPT Codes for Plantar Plate Repair

Other CPT codes used for plantar plate repair:

**CPT 28202** Repair, tendon, flexor, foot; secondary with free graft, each tendon (includes obtaining graft)

**CPT 28220** Tenolysis, flexor, foot; single tendon

**CPT 28022** Arthrotomy, including exploration, drainage, or removal of loose or foreign body; metatarsophalangeal joint

# CPT codes for Plantar Plate Repair

## Summary:

There is no plantar plate repair CPT code, so it is incumbent upon you to decide what best represents your procedure and if none of the options are pertinent, then you must use CPT 28899.

The coding of a plantar plate repair is based on what was actually repaired and documented.

The appropriate diagnosis codes must be used to justify the use of these codes since many payers may consider certain code-sets “unbundling.”



# Questions?