Histologically proven precancerous lesion(s) on the cervix, are candidates for laser ablation. Given the efficacy and availability of LEEP for diagnostic purposes Laser conization procedures are no longer a preferred approach to diagnostic excisional biopsy.

RELEVANT ANATOMY
Cervix, transformation zone, squamocolumnar junction, internal cervical os, limits of cervical lesion.

PATIENT POSITION
• Dorsal lithotomy

ANESTHESIA
• Paracervical block

EQUIPMENT
• CO₂ laser
• Operating microscope used to direct the beam to target tissue
• Vacuum device
• Nonreflective, coated speculum
• 5% acetic acid

TECHNIQUE
1. Place anti-reflective, coated speculum into the vagina and orient for optimum cervical exposure.
2. Turn on vacuum for smoke/vapor removal.
3. Place 5% acetic acid on the cervix and note limits of lesion, correlating with previous colposcopic impressions as needed.
4. Vaporize acetowhite lesions or the entire transformation zone using continuous beam and settings of 10 W with a spot size of 1 mm.
5. Ensure that: (1) Upper limits (in canal) have been vaporized and (2) adequate hemostasis.
AFTERCARE

- The patient is instructed to avoid intercourse and place nothing in the vagina, and not immerse herself in water (e.g., take a bath or swim) for 2 to 4 weeks. She is seen in the office at 6 weeks.
- If Monsel’s solution was used, remind the patient that she may have brown grainy discharge for several days.

CPT Code

57513. Cautery of cervix; laser ablation

PEARLS

- Laser is an acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.
- CO₂ laser produces electromagnetic radiation by a high density, controlled discharge of a mixture of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and helium gas.
- This energy is emitted at a wavelength of 10.6 μ with an average power of 10 to 10,000 W. Vaporization of biologic tissue is achieved with little difficulty.
- Tissue destruction is achieved by raising the temperature of the cell until intracellular water turns to steam, vaporizing the cell.
- Entire transformation zone must be destroyed in order to have improved treatment success.
- Some discomfort after laser therapy is common, but healing is rapid and scarring minimal.
- Standard methods for hemostasis such as silver nitrate or Monsel’s solution application can be used as needed (see also LEEP).