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Awake spinal fusion – endoscopic facet sparing TLIF under caudal epidural: A game changer

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Background: TransKambin fusion offers the advantage of providing reduced morbidity and awake surgery allowing for patient's own neuromonitoring during the procedure, along with reduced hospital stay, early mobilization, reduced blood loss and reduced operative time, while maintaining the standard of fusion that can be achieved with open/MISS TLIF.

Methods: EKLIF was performed in total of 19 patients with 17 single-level and 02 patients with multilevel lumbar discopathy and/or degenerative spondylolisthesis resulting in axial back pain and claudication, pseudo radicular, or radicular symptoms. Endoscopic discectomy, and inter-body cage insertion were performed through a 1 cm lateral incision used for TransForaminal access followed by percutaneous pedicle screw-rod fixation. Clinical outcome was assessed by early postoperative pain scores (visual analog score). Fusion rates were assessed by X-rays at 6 months. Clinical outcome, time in the operating room, intraoperative blood loss, and postoperative access-site pain were determined in all patients

Results: Excellent and good clinical results were obtained in 16 (84%) out of 19 patients at 6 months. The mean time spent in the operating room 76 minutes and no patient required a blood transfusion. Mean hospital stay was 2.8 days, with 1 patient having a prolonged stay of 8 days due to an intra-operative dural tear that was repaired endoscopically. There was no morbidity related to instrumentation. Postoperative stay was reduced with all patients mobilized on next day. Fusion was achieved in all patients on follow up of 6 months.

Conclusions: EKLIF allows for safe and efficient minimally invasive treatment of single and multilevel degenerative lumbar instability with good clinical results. Further prospective studies investigating long-term functional results are required to assess the definitive merits of TransKambin fusion of the lumbar spine.

Recent Publication

1. Anjeev Kumar Chaurasia, Pushpendra Bhagel, Rahul Ahluwalia. Effectiveness of Anti-Epileptic Drugs in Prophylaxis of Post Traumatic Epilepsy. Journal of Evolution of Medical and Dental Sciences 2015; Vol. 4, Issue 31, April 16; Page: 5371-5375
2. Chaudhary, D., Ahluwalia, R. & Rai, Synchronous Breast Cancer and Gallbladder Diseases—A Chromosomal Analysis: A Pilot Study at a Tertiary Care Centre. Indian J Surg 79, 544–548 (2017).
3. Anjeev Kumar Chourasia, Hement Kumar Ahirwar, Anuradha Choudhary, Rahul Ahluwalia, M. C. Songra. Prospective Study of Serum Electrolyte (Na⁺, K⁺, Ca⁺⁺, PO₄ --) Imbalance in Severe and Moderate Traumatic Head Injury. Journal of Evolution of Medical and Dental Sciences 2015; Vol. 4, Issue 30, April 13; Page: 5115-5120.

Biography

Rahul Ahluwalia completed his training in Neurosurgery from the prestigious Post Graduate Institute, Kolkata, India in 2019 and currently is Head of Dept. of Neurosurgery at Suyash Hospital, Raipur. A dedicated Endoscopic Neurosurgeon, having performed over 300 endoscopic spine surgeries using PELD & UBE techniques, along with more than 500 endoscopic brain surgeries.

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