

## Editorial: degenerative spine disease—a review of emerging topics in operative spine care

The last two decades have brought forth tremendous advancement in our understanding of degenerative spine disease and the surgical options to treat them. Our knowledge of how cervical myelopathy progresses has improved, as has our understanding of the potential risks and benefits of cervical disc arthroplasty versus the “gold-standard” treatment of anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF). Enabling technology, including alternative options for lumbar spinal fusion and new biologics make it increasingly challenging to determine if there is an advantage for one surgical technique or a specific biologic to enhance spinal fusion. This series will provide up-to-date evidence on the aforementioned topics.

Spine surgeons care for and treat progressively older individuals as healthcare and technology continues to advance. This has led to greater case complexity with potential for surgical and medical complications. During this series, the challenges in treating geriatric patients are underscored, including how to optimize their care and outcomes and the relationship between the spine and the pelvis. These topics are “hot”—our knowledge is quickly advancing and our understanding of optimal treatment is constantly changing. This section will highlight recent literature, providing the reader up-to-date information on current trends and advancements.

Finally, post-operative pain management protocols and the necessity of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prophylaxis continues to evolve. Included in this series is a discussion of the risks and benefits of DVT prophylaxis for degenerative spine patients. Moreover, the risks and benefits of marijuana as an analgesic—as it is quickly becoming legalized in many regions of the United States—will be discussed as our knowledge of the risks and benefits is also rapidly evolving. We hope the readers find these reviews relevant and interesting as they are becoming common themes and topics of discussion in our clinics and they are changing our practices in the operating room.

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