Outcomes of lumbar spinal fusion in super-elderly patients aged 80 years and over
Comparison with patients aged 65 years and over, and under 80 years

Hee Jung Son, MD, MD, PhD, Jo Yon-Young, MD, PhD, Hyung Seob Ahn, MD, MD, Jooyoung You, MD, Chang-Nam Kang, MD, PhD

Abstract
Despite the increasing prevalence of spinal surgery in super-elderly (SE) patients, the outcomes and complication rates have not been fully elucidated. The purpose of this study was to compare the outcomes and complications of lumbar spinal fusion for degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis (DLSS) in SE patients aged 80 years and over with those in patients aged 65 years and over, and under 80 years.

This study analyzed 160 patients who underwent spinal fusion for DLSS between January 2011 and November 2019. Thirty patients in the SE group (group SE, ≥80 years) and 130 patients in the elderly group (group E, ≥65 years and <80 years) were enrolled. The performance status was evaluated by preoperative American society of anesthesiologists (ASA) score. Visual analog scales for back pain (VAS-BP) and leg pain (VAS-LP), and Korean Oswestry disability index (K-ODI) were used to assess clinical outcomes preoperatively and 1 year postoperatively. Percent changes of VAS-BP, VAS-LP and K-ODI were also analyzed. Fusion rates were evaluated by computed tomography 6 months and 1 year postoperatively. Furthermore, bone mineral density, operative time, estimated blood loss, blood transfusion, hospital days, hospitalization in intensive care unit and postoperative complications were compared.

The average age of group SE was 82.0 years and that of group E was 71.6 years. There were no differences in preoperative ASA score, preoperative or postoperative VAS BP and VAS LP, bone mineral density, operative time, estimated blood loss, blood transfusion, hospital days, hospitalization in intensive care unit and fusion rates between the groups. Preoperative and postoperative K-ODI were higher in group SE than group E (all P < .05). However, percent changes of VAS-BP, VAS-LP and K-ODI showed no significant differences. Overall early and late complications were not significantly different between the groups; however, postoperative delirium was more common in group SE than group E (P = .027). SE status was the only risk factor for postoperative delirium with odds ratio of 3.4 (P = .018).

Spinal fusion surgery is considerable treatment to improve the quality of life of SE patients with DLSS, however careful perioperative management is needed to prevent postoperative delirium.

Abbreviations: ASA = American society of anesthesiologists, BSF = The Brantigan, Steffee and Fraser, DLSS = degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis, K-ODI = Korean Oswestry disability index, SE = super-elderly, VAS-BP = visual analog scales for back pain, VAS-LP = visual analog scales for leg pain.

Keywords: 80 and over, complications, lumbar spinal fusion, super-elderly, surgical outcome

1. Introduction
According to statistics published by the United States Census Bureau in 2016, people aged 65 years and older accounted for 8.5% of the world’s population in 2015, and this is expected to increase to 16.7% by 2050. The population aged 80 and over will more than triple between 2015 and 2050, from 126.5 million to 446.6 million. Furthermore, global life expectancy at birth is projected to increase from 68.6 years in 2015 to 76.2 in 2050. Even in Japan, life expectancy at birth was 84.7 years in 2015 and is expected to reach 91.6 years in 2050.[11]

As the aging population increases, degenerative spinal diseases such as degenerative spinal stenosis, degenerative disc disorder, and adult spinal deformity also increase.[2,3] In the field of orthopedics, the term “super-elderly” (SE) refers to patients of 80 and older.[4] SE patients with degenerative spinal disease experience difficulties in their daily life due to low back pain and leg pain, and they complain of their poor quality of life.[5,6] Although medication, physical therapy and epidural steroid injections are used to manage those patients, some of such
patients complain of debilitating persistent pain and functional disability. In these patients, appropriate surgical treatment should be considered. More aggressive treatment such as decompression or spinal fusion surgery may be necessary because many elderly patients remain socio-physically active as life expectancy increases.

There are several reports of favorable clinical and radiological outcomes of spinal fusion for elderly patients. However, the surgical outcomes in SE patients are not fully documented. The purpose of this study was to compare the outcomes and complications of lumbar spinal fusion for degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis (DLSS) in SE patients aged 80 years and over with those in patients aged 65 years and over, and under 80 years.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Patient enrollment

This was a retrospective study approved by the institutional review board (HY-IRB: 2020–12–019–001). Patients who underwent spinal fusion surgery for DLSS between January 2011 and November 2019 and had at least 1 year of follow-up were eligible for inclusion. Surgery was performed on patients who reported severe persisting radiating pain to a lower extremity, neurogenic claudication no more than 100 meters, and/or low back pain despite conservative treatment lasting at least 3 months, and/or who had a neurologic deficit. All the patients had severe spinal stenosis as indicated by Schizas grades C or D, or foraminal stenosis of grade 3 on magnetic resonance imaging. Patients who received spinal fusion due to spinal trauma, tumor, deformity, infection or revision surgery were excluded.

The sample size was calculated referencing a previous study in consultation with medical statistics support office of our institution. It was set to obtain a power of 80% with an alpha of 0.05, thus, 160 patients were required. We classified patients of 80 years and older as the SE group (Group SE), those 65 and older, and under 80 as the elderly group (Group E).

Operation time, estimated blood loss, blood transfusion, hospital days and whether hospitalized in an intensive care unit were also analyzed. Bone mineral density was examined by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry. Preoperative assessment included American society of anesthesiologists (ASA) score on physical status and medical comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus (DM), coronary artery disease, arrhythmia, congestive heart failure, chronic kidney disease, asthma, chronic respiratory disease, history of tuberculosis, history of pulmonary thromboembolism, hepatitis, hyper- and hypothyroidism, dementia, history of stroke, Parkinson’s disease and autoimmune disease.

2.2. Surgical procedures

All surgical procedures were performed by 1 senior spine surgeon (CNK) at a single center. A posterior midline approach under general anesthesia was done. Decompressive laminectomy and pedicle screw fixation were performed. Cement-augmented cannulated pedicle screws were placed in the case of patients with 2 or more risk factors for implant failure among osteoporosis, >65 years of age, autoimmune disease and stage 3 to 5 chronic kidney disease, while solid pedicle screws were used for those without risk factors. In patients with only one of the 4 risk factors, selection of the screws was made by the surgeon, considering the general condition of the patients.

After facetectomy and discectomy of the involved segments, open transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion was performed using 2 polyetheretherketone cages filled with morselised laminar bone and demineralized bone matrix.

2.3. Clinical and radiological outcomes

Clinical and functional outcomes were evaluated using preoperative and postoperative visual analog scales for back pain (VAS-BP) and leg pain (VAS-LP) and the Korean Oswestry disability index (K-ODI). Postoperative outcomes were measured 1 year postoperatively. In addition, percent changes of VAS-BP, VAS-LP and K-ODI were evaluated. Percent change were calculated as (postoperative value-preoperative value) / preoperative value × 100 (%).

For radiological outcomes, standing anteroposterior and lateral plain radiographs were obtained 1 week, 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year after surgery. The Brantigan, Steffee and Fraser (BSF) classification was used to confirm interbody fusion grade, based on computed tomography at 6 months and 1 year after surgery. BSF-1 and 2 were classified as nonunion, BSF-3 as union. All radiographic assessment was performed independently by a spine fellow (HJS) and chief orthopedic resident (HSA), who did not participate in the surgery.

2.4. Postoperative complications

Medical records were reviewed to investigate postoperative complications. Complications were classified as early or late according to time of occurrence based on findings at postoperative 3 months. Early complications included major and minor complications. Major complications were death, neurologic deficit, leakage of cerebrospinal fluid, deep wound infection, congestive heart failure, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary thromboembolism, acute myocardial infarction/ischemia, pneumonia, atelectasis, acute kidney injury and stroke. Minor complications included wound dehiscence, superficial wound infection, hematoma, urinary tract infection, urinary disturbance, ileus, gastritis, ischemic colitis and postoperative delirium. Late complications included adjacent segment disease, revision surgery and implant failure. All implant failures were defined as a radiolucent line over 2 mm between bone and implant or a disruption of the continuity of implant in the plain radiographs or computed tomography.

2.5. Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 18.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL). Student t test or the Mann–Whitney test was used for continuous variables, and Chi-Squared or Fisher exact tests for categorical variables. Multivariate logistic regression analysis to investigate risk factors of postoperative complications was carried out with variables with P < .1 in the univariate analysis. Differences were considered statistically significant at P < .05.

3. Results

A total of 160 patients were enrolled with 30 and 130 patients assigned to group SE and group E, respectively. The average age
was 82.0 years for group SE, and 71.6 years for group E. Demographic data did not differ between the 2 groups except for age and body mass index. Operative time, estimated blood loss, blood transfusion, hospital days and intensive care unit hospitalization also did not differ (Table 1). And there was no difference in the frequency of use of cement-augmented cannulated pedicle screws (P = .473). The proportion of patients with 1 or more comorbidities was similar and mean preoperative ASA scores were not different in the 2 groups, indicating that the groups were of much the same preoperative physical status (Table 2).

### 3.1. Clinical and radiological outcomes

There were no significant differences between the 2 groups in preoperative or postoperative VAS-BP and VAS-LP. On the other hand, preoperative and postoperative K-ODI was significantly higher in group SE than group E (P = .017, 0.022, respectively). However, there was no difference was observed in percent change of VAS-BP, VAS-LP or K-ODI. Fusion rates at 6 months were higher in group SE than group E (P = .017, .022, respectively). Among the minor complications, only postoperative delirium was significantly higher in group SE than group E (26.7% vs 9.2%, P = .027) (Table 4). In multivariate logistic regression analysis, blood transfusion was a significant risk factor for major complications (P = .015), and SE status for delirium (P = .018), with a predictabilities of 84.4% and 88.1%, respectively (Table 5).

### 3.2. Postoperative complications

No patients died from surgery-related complications during either hospital stays or follow-up. Overall early and late complications were not different between the 2 groups. However, there were significant differences in details. Unlike rates of major complications, minor complications rates were significantly different (16.7% vs 16.9%, P = .973 and 53.3% vs 32.3%, P = .031, respectively). Among the minor complications, only postoperative delirium was significantly higher in group SE than group E (26.7% vs 9.2%, P = .027) (Table 4). In multivariate logistic regression analysis, blood transfusion was a significant risk factor for major complications (P = .015), and SE status for delirium (P = .018), with a predictabilities of 84.4% and 88.1%, respectively (Table 5).

### 4. Discussion

Some SE patients with DLSS hesitate to undergo surgical treatment because of concerns about their physical status and comorbidities, and this makes them prefer continuing conservative treatment. There is still controversy over which treatment is more appropriate for improving the quality of life of SE patients. Katz et al reported that satisfaction rates for surgical treatment of spinal fusion were lower in patients of poorer physical status or with more comorbidities. Deyo et al reported that the rates of complications after lumbar spinal surgery in patients aged 75 years or older reached 18%. And Johnson et al recommended that elderly patients with DLSS should consider conservative treatment rather than surgery because few patients developed serious conditions over 4 years of observation. However, even patients with more than 1 comorbidity have relatively good clinical outcomes after spinal fusion. According to Cho et al clinical outcomes and complication rates following lumbar fusion surgery for DLSS did not differ between patients aged 75 and over, who had higher preoperative ASA scores, and those aged 65 years and over, and under 75

---

### Table 1

Demographics and baseline characteristics.

|                      | Group SE (n = 30) | Group E (n = 130) | P   |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Age at surgery (yr)  | 82.0 ± 2.1       | 71.6 ± 4.2        | .000*|
| Gender (male/female) | 12/18            | 32/98             | .089 |
| 1BMI (kg/m²)         | 22.8 ± 3.4       | 24.3 ± 3.6        | .044*|
| Osteoporosis         | 16 (53.3%)       | 48 (39.6%)        | .098 |
| 2BMD (T-score)       | −2.4 ± 1.1       | −2.2 ± 1.0        | .318 |
| Preoperative 3Hb (g/dL) | 12.2 ± 1.1       | 12.6 ± 1.5        | .103 |
| Preoperative albumin (g/dL) | 3.9 ± 0.4       | 4.1 ± 0.4        | .094 |
| Number of fused segments | 2.1 ± 1.4       | 2.2 ± 1.4        | .869 |
| Operative time (minutes) | 339.5 ± 5.4   | 337.6 ± 9.3       | .921 |
| 4EBL (mL)            | 1285.0 ± 1018.6  | 1208.7 ± 868.2    | .675 |
| Blood transfusion (mL) | 1031.3 ± 773.7  | 786.2 ± 955.1     | .192 |
| Hospital days        | 33.1 ± 18.3      | 27.5 ± 25.8       | .260 |
| 5ICU hospitalization | 2 (6.7%)         | 1 (0.8%)          | .090 |
| Follow-up period (mo) | 33.7 ± 22.4     | 28.0 ± 18.4       | .146 |

Values are given as mean ± standard deviation.

* Significant difference.

1BMI = body mass index.

2BMD = bone mineral density.

3Hb = hemoglobin.

4EBL = estimated blood loss.

5ICU = intensive care unit.

---

### Table 2

Preoperative assessment.

|                      | Group SE (n = 30) | Group E (n = 130) | P   |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----|
| 1ASA score           | 0                | 0                 | .253 |
| ASA 1                | 0                | 0                 |     |
| ASA 2                | 17 (66.7%)       | 94 (72.3%)        |     |
| ASA 3                | 13 (43.3%)       | 35 (26.9%)        |     |
| ASA 4                | 0                | 1 (0.8%)          |     |
| ASA 5                | 0                | 0                 |     |
| Mean ASA score       | 2.43 ± 0.50      | 2.28 ± 0.47       | .125 |
| Number of patients with one or more comorbidities | 28 (93.3%) | 103 (79.2%) | .071 |

1ASA = American society of anesthesiologists.

---

### Table 3

Clinical and radiological outcomes.

|                      | Group SE (n = 30) | Group E (n = 130) | P   |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Preoperative 1VAS-BP | 6.2 ± 1.7        | 5.5 ± 2.4         | .076 |
| Preoperative 2VAS-LP | 6.1 ± 1.7        | 6.5 ± 2.1         | .312 |
| Preoperative 3K-ODI  | 31.3 ± 5.5       | 28.2 ± 6.6        | .017*|
| Postoperative VAS-BP | 2.8 ± 1.7        | 2.2 ± 1.8         | .125 |
| Postoperative VAS-LP | 2.4 ± 1.7        | 2.3 ± 1.8         | .597 |
| Postoperative K-ODI  | 18.1 ± 6.3       | 14.7 ± 7.7        | .022*|
| Percent change of VAS-BP | −53.1 ± 32.1    | −57.6 ± 32.6      | .767 |
| Percent change of VAS-LP | −58.4 ± 27.6    | −65.7 ± 26.8      | .183 |
| Percent change of K-ODI | −41.8 ± 18.2    | −48.3 ± 25.5      | .108 |
| Fusion rates, 6 mo   | 21 (70.0%)       | 89 (68.5%)        | .870 |
| Fusion rates, 1 y    | 27 (90.0%)       | 118 (90.8%)       | 1.000 |

Values are given as mean ± standard deviation.

* Significant difference.

1VAS-BP = visual analogue scale for back pain.

2VAS-LP = visual analogue scale for leg pain.

3K-ODI = Korean Oswestry disability index.
Blood transfusion 

Super-elderly

| Group SE (n = 30) | Group E (n = 130) | P  |
|------------------|------------------|----|
| Early complications | 17 (56.7%) | 57 (43.8%) | .204 |
| Major complications | 5 (16.7%) | 22 (16.9%) | .973 |
| Neurologic deficit | 1 (3.3%) | 5 (3.8%) | 1.000 |
| Leakage of 1CSF | 1 (3.3%) | 1 (0.8%) | .341 |
| Deep wound infection | 2 (6.7%) | 7 (5.4%) | .676 |
| 2CHF | 0 | 0 | - |
| 3DVT | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.8%) | 1.000 |
| 4PTE | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.8%) | 1.000 |
| 5AMI | 1 (3.3%) | 6 (4.6%) | 1.000 |
| Pneumonia | 1 (3.3%) | 1 (0.8%) | .341 |
| Atelectasis | 0 (0%) | 2 (1.6%) | 1.000 |
| 6AKI | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.8%) | 1.000 |
| Stroke | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.8%) | 1.000 |
| Minor complications | 16 (53.3%) | 42 (32.3%) | .031 |
| Wound dehiscence | 0 (0%) | 4 (3.1%) | 1.000 |
| Superficial wound infection | 1 (3.3%) | 6 (4.6%) | 1.000 |
| Hematoma | 1 (3.3%) | 1 (0.8%) | .341 |
| 1UTI | 5 (16.7%) | 14 (10.8%) | .358 |
| Urinary disturbance | 6 (20.0%) | 11 (8.5%) | .094 |
| Ileus | 0 (0%) | 4 (3.1%) | 1.000 |
| Gastritis | 0 (0%) | 3 (2.3%) | 1.000 |
| Ischemic colitis | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.8%) | 1.000 |
| Postoperative delirium | 8 (26.7%) | 12 (9.2%) | .027 |
| Late complications | 13 (43.3%) | 56 (43.1%) | .980 |
| Implant failure | 11 (36.7%) | 53 (40.8%) | .679 |
| 1ASD | 2 (6.7%) | 6 (4.6%) | .645 |
| Revision surgery | 2 (6.7%) | 7 (5.4%) | .676 |
| Total | 24 (80.0%) | 87 (66.9%) | .161 |

Significant difference.

1 Implant failure includes halo sign, screw pull-out, screw migration, screw breakage, cage subsidence, cage migration and rod breakage.
2 CSF = cerebrospinal fluid.
3 CHF = congestive heart failure.
4 DVT = deep vein thrombosis.
5 PTE = pulmonary thromboembolism.
6 AMI = acute myocardial infarction/ischemia.
7 AKI = acute kidney injury.
8 UTI = urinary tract infection.
9 ASD = adjacent segment disease.

in older patients. In the present study, 16.9% of all the patients (27 of a total of 160 patients) suffered major complications, a rate similar to those in other studies.[19,21,23] However, there is no consensus about whether age by itself is a risk factor for postoperative complications after spinal surgery in elderly patients. Nasser et al[24] reported that age increased the risk of complications after surgery for degenerative spondylosis among 79,417 patients. According to Carreon et al,[17] when posterior lumbar decompression and fusion were performed in patients 65 and older, complication rates increased not only with age but with increased blood loss, longer operative time and number of fusion levels. In contrast, other studies reported that increasing numbers of comorbidities, higher BMI, DM and malnutrition, but not advanced age, were risk factors for perioperative complications after spinal surgery.[8,25–27]

In the present study, rates of early and late complications were not significantly different between the 2 groups. Although blood transfusion was a risk factor for early major complications, the odds ratio of 1.001 was too low to justify application to clinical situations. Therefore, it will be necessary to evaluate the risk factors for complications after spinal fusion surgery in SE patients in longer follow-up studies with higher levels of evidence in larger patient groups. Otherwise, postoperative delirium was significantly more frequent in the SE group. SE status was the only risk factor for postoperative delirium, with an odds ratio of 3.4. Similarly, Song et al[28] found that postoperative delirium was more common after orthopedic surgery in older patients, especially after spine, hip and knee surgery; frequencies were 1.18% in the 50s, 3.86% in the 60s, 8.49% in 70s, and 13.04% in the over 80s. Therefore, spine surgeons should focus on nonpharmacological and pharmacological methods for preventing postoperative delirium when performing spinal fusion surgery in SE patients.[25,30] Rates of implant failure in the present study were 36.7% and 40.8% in group SE and group E, respectively. It was lower than 62.8%, screw loosening rates for osteoporotic vertebra reported by El Saman et al[31] however it was relatively high. It might be due to strict criteria of implant failure over 2 mm. Recently, the authors use cement-augmented cannulated pedicle screws to prevent implant failure.[13]

There was no significant difference between the 2 groups in preoperative or postoperative VAS-BP and VAS-LP in the present study. In addition, percent changes of VAS-BP and VAS-LP were also not different. In a previous study, there was a tendency for average ODI to increase gradually from 20s to 70s.[32] Likewise, the preoperative and postoperative K-ODI was significantly higher in the SE patients than the elderly patients. However, there was no difference in percent change of K-ODI and percent change of ODI is known to be the best marker of outcome when such subjective scoring systems are used in lumbar spinal surgery.[33] These results showed that satisfactory clinical and functional outcomes were obtained after spinal fusion surgery for DLS in SE patients in the present study.

Our study has a number of notable limitations. First, it was a retrospective study of spinal fusion surgery performed by 1 surgeon in a single center. Second, the SE group was relatively small due to the paucity of the patients in that age distribution. Third, the follow-up period of a minimum of 1 year was too short to evaluate late complications such as adjacent segment disease and revision surgery. However, because early major complications of spinal surgery are of more concern in SE patients, late complications may not be critical. Lastly, there might have been selection bias because SE patients in a very poor physical state or

Table 5

Multivariate analysis of risk factors for postoperative complications.

| Odds ratio (CI) | P  |
|----------------|----|
| Blood transfusion | 1.001 (1.000–1.001) | .015 |
| Super-elderly | 3.398 (1.233–9.367) | .015 |

Significant difference.

1 Risk factor for major complications.
2 Risk factor for postoperative delirium.
3 CI = confidence interval.
with a lot of severe comorbidities might not have undergone surgery.

5. Conclusions

Spinal fusion surgery for DLSS in SE patients resulted in more minor complications, especially postoperative delirium, than in elderly patients, however similar rates of early major complications, late complications, improvements of clinical and functional outcomes, and fusion rates. The only risk factor for postoperative delirium in this study was SE status, with an odds ratio of 3.4. Therefore, spinal fusion surgery is considerable treatment to improve the quality of life of SE patients with DLSS, however careful perioperative management is needed to prevent postoperative delirium.

Author contributions

Conceptualization: Hee Jung Son, Chang-Nam Kang.
Data curation: Hyung Seob Ahn, Jooyoung You.
Formal analysis: Hyung Seob Ahn, Jooyoung You.
Supervision: Chang-Nam Kang.
Writing – original draft: Hee Jung Son, Young-Hoon Jo.
Writing – review & editing: Hee Jung Son, Young-Hoon Jo, Chang-Nam Kang.

References

[1] He W, Goodkind D, Kowal P. An aging world: 2015. United States Census Bureau. 2016;1–175.
[2] Ravindra VM, Senglaub SS, Rattani A, et al. Degenerative lumbar spine disease: estimating global incidence and worldwide volume. Global Spine J 2018;8:784–94.
[3] Aizawa T, Kokubun S, Ozawa H, et al. Increasing incidence of degenerative spinal diseases in Japan during 25 years: the registration system of spinal surgery in Tohoku University spine society. Tohoku J Exp Med 2016;238:153–63.
[4] Bennett KM, Scarborough JE, Vasilef S. Outcomes and health care resource utilization in super-elderly trauma patients. J Surg Res 2010;163:127–31.
[5] Lee BH, Moon S-H, Suk K-S, Kim H-S, Yang J-H, Lee H-M. Lumbar spinal stenosis: pathophysiology and treatment principle: a narrative review. Asian Spine J 2020;14:682–93.
[6] Otani K, Kikuchi S, Yabuki S, et al. Lumbar spinal stenosis has a negative impact on quality of life compared with other comorbidities: an epidemiological cross-sectional study of 1862 community-dwelling individuals. Scientific World J 2013;2013:1–9.
[7] Gunzburg R, Szpalski M. The conservative surgical treatment of lumbar spinal stenosis in the elderly. Eur Spine J 2003;12:S176–80.
[8] Ragab AA, Fye MA, Bohlman HH. Surgery of the lumbar spine for spinal stenosis in 118 patients 70 years of age or older. Spine 2003;28:348–53.
[9] Cho KJ, Park SR, Park MJ. Clinical results of lumbar spinal fusion in degenerative spine disease in patients over 70 years old: a comparative study of patients over 65 years old and patients less than 75 years old. J Korean Orthop Assoc 2012;47:330–6.
[10] Benz RJ, Ibrahim ZG, Afshar P, Garfin SR. Predicting complications in elderly patients undergoing lumbar decompression. Clin Orthop Relat Res 2001;384:116–21.
[11] Schizas C, Theumann N, Burn A, et al. Qualitative grading of severity of lumbar spinal stenosis based on the morphology of the dural sac on magnetic resonance images. Spine 2010;35:1919–24.
[12] Wildermuth S, Zanetti D, Duewell S, et al. Lumbar spine: quantitative and qualitative assessment of positional (upright flexion and extension) MR imaging and myelography. Radiology 1998;207:391–8.
[13] Kim G-U, Chang MC, Kim TU, Lee GW. Diagnostic modality in spine disease: a review. Asian Spine J 2020;44:910–20.
[14] Saklad M. Grading of patients for surgical procedures. Anesthesiology 1941;2:281–4.
[15] Choi SH, Han JM, You JY, Kang C-N. Comparison of implant failure between cement augmented cannulated pedicle screws and solid pedicle screws and associated risk factors in lumbar fusion surgery: a pilot study. J Korean Soc Spine Surg 2020;27:89–95.
[16] Brantigan JW, Steffee AD. A carbon fiber implant to aid interbody lumbar fusion. Two-year clinical results in the first 26 patients. Spine (Phila Pa 1976) 1999;18:2106–7.
[17] Carreon LY, Puno RM, Dimar JR, Glassman SD, Johnson JR. Perioperative complications of posterior lumbar decompression and arthrodesis in older adults. JBJS 2003;85:2089–92.
[18] Reinli R, Steffen T, Cohen L, Aebi M. Elective lumbar spinal decompression in the elderly: is it a high-risk operation? Canadian J Surg 2003;46:43–6.
[19] Cloyd JM, Acosta FL, Cloyd C, Ames CP. Effects of age on perioperative complications of extensive multilevel thoracolumbar spinal fusion surgery. J Neurosurg 2010;12:402–8.
[20] Katz JN, Lipson SJ, Brick GW, et al. Clinical correlates of patient satisfaction after laminectomy for degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis. Spine 1995;20:1155–9.
[21] Deyo R, Cherkin D, Loeser J, Bigos S, Ciol M. Morbidity and mortality in association with operations on the lumbar spine. The influence of age, diagnosis, and procedure. JBJS 1992;74:536–43.
[22] Johnsson KE, Rosén I, Udén A. The natural course of lumbar spinal stenosis. Clin Orthop Relat Res 1992;279:82–6.
[23] Daubs MD, Lenke LG, Cheh G, Stolbs G, Bridwell KH. Adult spinal deformity surgery: complications and outcomes in patients over age 60. Spine 2007;32:2238–44.
[24] Nasser R, Yadla S, Malenfort MG, et al. Complications in spine surgery: a review. J Neurosurg 2010;13:144–57.
[25] Campbell PG, Yadla S, Nasser R, Malone J, Malenfort MG, Ratliff JK. Patient comorbidity score predicting the incidence of perioperative complications: assessing the impact of comorbidities on complications in spine surgery. J Neurosurg 2012;16:37–43.
[26] Puivanesarajah V, Jain A, Kebash K, et al. Poor nutrition status and lumbar spine fusion surgery in the elderly: readmissions, complications, and mortality. Spine 2017;42:979–83.
[27] Glassman SD, Carreon LY, Dimar JR, Campbell MJ, Puno RM, Johnson JR. Clinical outcomes in older patients after posterolateral lumbar fusion. Spine Journal 2007;7:547–51.
[28] Song K-J, Ko J-H, Kwon T-Y, Choi B-W. Etiology and related factors of postoperative delirium in orthopedic surgery. Clin Orthop Surg 2019;11:297–301.
[29] Kostas TR, Zimmerman KM, Rudolph JL. Improving delirium care: prevention, monitoring, and assessment. Neurohospitalist 2013;3:194–202.
[30] Martinez FT, Tobar C, Beddings CI, Vallejo G, Fuentes P. Preventing delirium in an acute hospital using a non-pharmacological intervention. Age Ageing 2012;41:629–34.
[31] El Saman A, Meier S, Sander A, Kelm A, Marzi I, Lauer H. Reduced loosening rate and loss of correction following posterior stabilization with or without PMMA augmentation of pedicle screws in vertebral fractures in the elderly. Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg 2013;39:455–60.
[32] Tonosu J, Takeshita K, Harza N, et al. The normative score and the cut-off value of the Oswestry Disability Index (ODI). Eur Spine J 2012;21:1596–602.
[33] Little DG, MacDonald D. The use of the percentage change in Oswestry Disability Index score as an outcome measure in lumbar spinal surgery. Spine 1994;19:2139–43.