A Study of Pain after Conservative Management of Degenerative Disease of Lumbar Spine

Dr Harikiran Bangera
Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopedics, Srinivas Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalore.

Abstract: The most common diagnosis is the degenerative diseases of the lumbar spine. This is because of the Anatomical curves. When a rigid curve meets a moving curve the point at which the change occurs often forms the weakest point. Lower backache in today’s world is very commonly complained in every age group but more commonly in the elders. So in today’s world where the posture of the body when is not maintained well forms these forms of anomaly. There is a great debate among the authors of which is the most ideal mode of treatment. So this study tries to highlight the same.

Keywords: Conservative management, Surgical Management, Lumbar Spine, Canal Stenosis

1. Introduction
Zaina F1, Tomkins-Lane C, Carragee E, Negrini have very little confidence to conclude whether surgical treatment or a conservative approach is better for lumbar spinal stenosis. However, it was noted that the rate of side effects ranged from 10% to 24% in surgical cases, and no side effects were reported for any conservative treatment. No clear benefits were observed with surgery versus non-surgical treatment. These findings suggest that clinicians should be very careful in informing patients about possible treatment options, especially given that conservative treatment options have resulted in no reported side effects. Athiviraham et al2 prospectively evaluated 125 consecutive patients for this non-randomized cohort study. Of the patients choosing surgery, 54 underwent decompression only and 42 had decompression and fusion for preexisting spondylolisthesis; twenty-nine patients declined surgery. At 2 years followup, the average improvements in Roland-Morris questionnaire score in the decompression only, decompression with fusion, and nonsurgical groups were 6.9, 6.1, and 1.2, respectively. The percentages of patients who were better, worse, or the same were similar for those who had decompression only (63.3%, 4.1%, and 32.7%, respectively) and decompression with fusion (61.5%, 2.6%, and 35.9%, respectively) but different from those treated without surgery (25.0%, 12.5%, and 62.5%, respectively). In today’s world where the posture of the body when is not maintained well forms these forms of anomaly3-11.

This study tries to shed some light on the beneficial effects of the surgery in the above mentioned condition.

2. Aims and Objectives of study
To study pain after conservative mode of treatment available for degenerative diseases of the lumbar spine.

2. Materials and Method
This study was done in Department of Orthopedics, Srinivas Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalore.

The study was done in 30 patients who were randomly selected.

Table 1: Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-50</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-60</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;60</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 2: Gender Distribution

Graph 4: Duration of Pain when compared to the surgery:
4. Discussion

Malmivaara A et al studied 94 patients who were randomized into a surgical or nonoperative treatment group: 50 and 44 patients, respectively. Surgery comprised undercutting laminectomy of the stenotic segments in 10 patients augmented with transpedicular fusion. The primary pain (scales, 0-10), as well as self-reported and measured walking outcome was based on assessment of functional disability using the Oswestry Disability Index (scale, 0-100). Data on the intensity of leg and back ability were compiled at randomization and at follow-up examinations at 6, 12, and 24 months. Both treatment groups showed improved during follow-up. At 1 year, the mean difference in favor of surgery was 11.3 in disability (95% confidence interval [CI]; 4.3-18.4), 1.7 in leg pain (95% CI; 0.4-3.0), and 2.3(95% CI; 1.1-3.6) in back pain. At the 2-year follow-up, the mean differences were slightly less: 7.8 in disability (95% CI; 0.8-14.9) 1.5 in leg pain (95% CI; 0.3-2.8), and 2.1 in back pain (95% CI; 1.0-3.3). Walking ability, either reported or measured, did not differ between the two treatment groups. Although patients improved over the 2-year follow-up regardless of initial treatment, those undergoing decompressive surgery reported greater improvement regarding leg pain, back pain, and overall disability. The relative benefit of initial surgical treatment diminished over time, but outcomes of surgery remained favorable at 2 years. Longer follow-up is needed to determine if these differences persist.

Patients initially given a conservative line of treatment for lumbar spinal stenosis as the duration of surgical group became better in relation to pain, claudication and neurological deficits than the conservative group for a follow up period of 6 months.

5. Conclusion

At 6 month follow up statistically significant difference (p=0.001) was noted as per Independent sample Mann Whitney U test with respect to functionality among the two groups.

References