
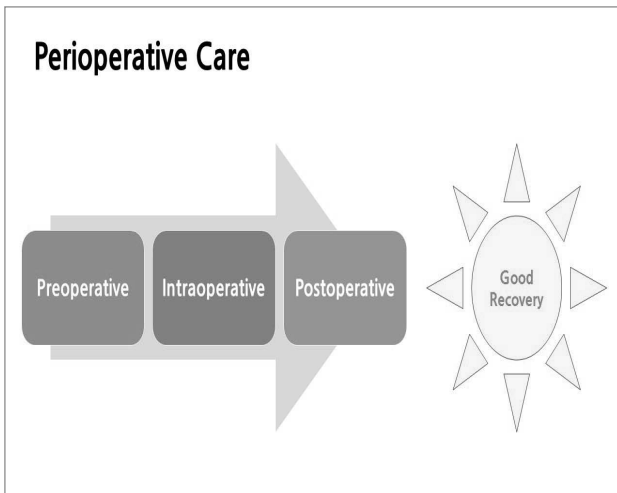


Instructions on Postoperative Care in Spinal Surgery

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Preop Consideration

Affecting Factors

- Systemic Consideration correlated to Morbidity/Mortality
 - Cardiac, Pulmonary, GI, Neurological, Hematological, Urological...
 - Age, DM (HbA1C > 7.0), Obesity, Revision, Level, ASA classification, GFR (<80), OP Time...
- Recent MI / CVA : Anti-PLT medication, Mortality
- Obesity : ↑ Intraabdominal Pr ≈ ↑ EBL
- Coagulation
 - Hypo-coagulation : VWD, Hemophilia, Anti-PLT drug, Vit E, Ginko biloba, Glucosamine/Chondroitin Sulfate, Fish, Nuts
 - Hyper-coagulation : Anticoagulation Protein Deficiency (antithrombin III, protein C, protein S), Homocystinuria, Lupus, Pregnancy, Oral Contraceptives, Malignancy, Nephrotic syndrome, DM



Postop Assessment

Immediate Postop Assessment & Intervention

- Level of Consciousness & Emotional State
- Quick Assessment of ABC / Vital Sign
- Safety Measures
 - Side rails up
 - Fall down and Slip down Prevention
- Emotional Support
- Pain Assessment

TABLE 20-3	Initial Postanesthesia Care Unit Assessment
Airway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patent • Oral or nasal airway • Endotracheal tube
Breathing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory rate and quality • Auscultated breath sounds • Pulse oximetry • Supplemental oxygen
Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECG monitoring—rate and rhythm • Blood pressure • Temperature and color of skin • Prepratal pulses
Neurologic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of consciousness • Orientation • Sensory and motor status
Genitourinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intake (fluids, irrigations) • Output (urine, drains)
Surgical Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dressing/drainage
Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incision • Other

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Immediate Postop Assessment & Intervention

- Objective Data
 - Vital Sign, Neurologic Status, Respiratory Status, Circulatory Status
 - Dressing and Drain Tube : Type & Amount
 - Laboratory Study
 - Input & Output
 - Urination : Void within 8-10 hrs, 500-700cc within 24 hrs, Residual Vol
 - Patient Positioning and Comfort, Equipment
 - Assessment of Risk Factors for Postop Cx



Postop Complication

Morbidity/Cx/Mortality of Spine Surgery

- Hematological : Hemorrhage
 - Gastrointestinal
 - Paralytic ileus
 - Constipation
- Respiratory
 - Atelectasis
 - Pneumonia
 - Pulmonary Embolism
- Cardiovascular
 - Hypotension
 - Cardiac Dysrhythmias
 - Venous Thrombosis
- Urinary
 - Urinary Retention
 - Low Urine Production
- Neurological
 - CVA/Stroke
- Immunological
 - Infection
- Wound Healing
 - Dehiscence
 - Evisceration
- Psychological
 - Body Image Problems

Author	% Deaths (total patients)	% Complications
Lee Spine 2011 ⁽¹⁶⁾	1.8% (767 Patients)	13% Cardiac 7% Pulmonary 6.2% Neurological 11.5% Hematological 6.7% Gastro 10.3% Urological
Fuji ⁽¹⁷⁾	0.12% (10,329 Patients)	0.94% Cardiac 0.85% Pulmonary 0.02% Pulmonary Embolism 1% Sepsis
Sassou ⁽¹⁸⁾	0.1% (10,242 Patients)	0.7%-2.1% Deep Tissue Wound Infections Impair Complications
Street ⁽¹⁹⁾	1.6% (942 Patients)	85% 1 Complication 39% Increased Hospitalization 7% Pneumonia 2% Neurological 2.2% Estimated Blood Loss over 2L 10.5% Intraoperative Complications 4.5% CSF leak 1.9% Instrumentation Failure 7.6% (352 patients)
Schoenfeld ⁽²⁰⁾	0.3% (2475 Patients)	28% Major 62% At Least 1 Complication 52% Long-term Complications 14% Neurological 34.4% Major Complications 19.3% Postoperative 18.7% Follow Up

16-21 Not available

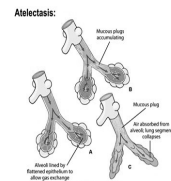
Pulmonary Disease

- Asthma, COPD
 - 1 wk prior to OP : Pulmonary assessment(spirometry)
 - Optimization : Bronchodilators, Inhaled steroids, Cromolyn Sodium
- Cessation of Smoking
 - > 4-8 wks prior to OP : benefit (2-4 wks : no effect)



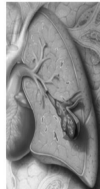
Pulmonary Disease

- Atelectasis
 - Common Cause of Postop Hypoxemia
 - Retained Secretions & Decreased Respiratory Excursion
 - Encourage Deep Breathing, Incentive Spirometry, Coughing, Early Mobilization
 - Can be cause of Pneumonia



Pulmonary Embolism, Deep Vein Thrombosis

- Thrombus from Peripheral Circulation
 - Lodge in Pulmonary artery
- Acute Tachypnea, Dyspnea, Tachycardia, Hypotension, ↓ SpO₂
- m/c Elective Surgery : Discectomy, Laminectomy = Low Risk
- Mechanical Prophylaxis
 - Pneumatic Sequential Compression Device
 - Compression Stocking
 - Before to Fully Ambulation State (Geerts et al., 2004)

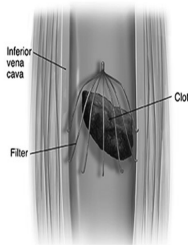


Pulmonary Embolism, Deep Vein Thrombosis

- Low-Molecular-Weight Heparin (LMWH) or Low-Dose Warfarin
 - Elective Combined Ant-Post (Circumferential) Surgery
 - High-Risk for Thromboembolic Disease
 - Multiple trauma, Malignancy, Hypercoagulable State (NASS, 2009)
 - LMWH prophylaxis, beginning with a half dose administered 6 h postoperatively followed by full dose once a day, reduced DVT/PE to 0, while only 2 patients exhibited minor bleeding complications (78 lumbar decompression, Zhi-Jian, 2011)
 - Duration : based on the underlying pathological condition & risk of hematoma
 - no available literature to support an ideal duration

Pulmonary Embolism, Deep Vein Thrombosis

- Prophylactic Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filter
 - History of DVT/PE
 - Hypercoagulation
 - Malignancy
 - Prolonged Immobilization
 - Long level (> 5 levels)
 - 360°± staged operations over 8 hrs,
 - 8.7% incidence of DVT, and 3.7% frequency of PE (compared to 13% PE)



Warfarin

- Chronic Anticoagulation Tx : Afib, DVT, MVR
- Transient Cessation + LMWH bridging Tx (Tafur, 2012)
 - At 3 months f/u
 - 5.1% bleeding rate (2.1% major bleeding)
 - Major Bleeding Factors
 - Mechanical MVR
 - Active Cancer
 - Prior Bleeding Hx
 - Re-initiation of heparin Tx within 24 hrs after surgery
- Restart Warfarin : not known (Cheng, 2010)



Paralytic Ileus, Constipation

- Cause : Bowel Manipulation, Anesthesia, Immobility, Pain medicines
- Tx of Ileus : Maintain NPO, Ambulation, Laxative



Infection

- Related to the altered skin integrity, inadequate nutrition and fluid balance, presence of environmental pathogens, invasive instrumentation, and immobility
- Prevention
 - Clean and Aseptic Wound Care
 - Good Pulmonary Toilet
 - Optimal Nutrition
- Old, Obesity, Malnutrition, DM, Higher ASA score, Post approach, Long-term Steroid



Infection

- Prophylactic Antibiotics
 - Evidence-based Guidelines (NASS, 2007)
 - Recommendations for Spine Surgery (Shaffer, Baisden, Fernand & Matz, 2013)
- Chlorhexidine Bathing
 - Night prior to and Morning of Surgery : reduce Surgical Site Infection
- Silver Impregnated Dressings
 - ↓ Deep and Superficial Wound Infections following Instrumented Fusion

Rare Cx

- Unintended Durotomy, CSF leak
 - Bed Rest with Flat Posture
 - Lumbar Drain
- Esophageal Perforation (Ant Cervical OP)
 - Continued Drainage, Fever, Infection, Dysphagia 1 week following OP



Postop Management

General Consideration

- POD # 1 week : Need Assistance for Activity of Daily Living
- POD 4 - 6 weeks : Off of Work
- Analgesic : enhance postoperative physical functioning
 - Titrating off of Opioid medications by weeks 2-6 postoperatively (until 3 months)

General Consideration

- Smoking Cessation
 - Decreased Pseudoarthrosis : 10 or more cigarettes per day
 - Nicotine Screening before Surgery
(Andersen et al., 2001; Glassman et al., 1998; Whitesides et al., 1994)
- Nutrition
 - approximately 6-12 weeks for nutritional parameters to return to baseline after spinal reconstructive surgery (Lenke, Bridwell, Blanke, & Baldus, 1995)
 - If preoperative malnourishment is suspected, albumin, prealbumin levels, and total lymphocyte count should be tested (Halpin et al., 2010)

General Consideration

- Weight Control
 - Weight loss should be encouraged for obese patients because those who are obese are at increased risk for perioperative complications (Pull ter Gunne, van Laarhove, & Cohen, 2010)
- Bone Health
 - Weight-bearing exercise is important for patients at risk for further osteoporotic compression fractures and can improve strength and balance (Dusdal et al., 2011)

General Consideration

- Multilevel Fusion
 - ↓ Flexibility depending on the levels
 - ↓ Simple Hygiene Tasks & Activities of Daily Living



Nutrition

- Early Oral Feedings ± Supplements
 - ↓ Duration of post-operative ileus & length of stay
 - Diet should include adequate fresh fruits, vegetables, and fiber
- Glucose Control ≈ ↓ Postsurgical Cx
 - Wound Infection, Pneumonia
- TPN in Same-day or Staged Fusion of 10 or more levels
 - Safe and Rapid Nutritional Normalization



Pain Management

- Preemptive Oxycodone + PCA for elective lumbar discectomy
 - ↓ Pain Scores, N/V,
 - Earlier Recovery of Bowel Function
 - ↑ Patient satisfaction

(Blumenthal, Min, Marquardt, & Borgeat, 2007)
- Continuous Subcutaneous Morphine in PLIF
 - ↓ Pain Scores & Side Effect compared with continuous epidural morphine and diclofenac sodium (Voltaren® ; Yukawa, Kato, Ito, Terashima, & Horie, 2005)

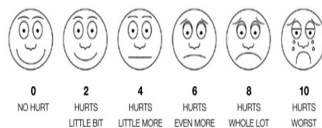


Pain Management

- Preemptive Gabapentin (Neurontin®)
 - ≥ 600 mg : significantly lower pain scores than patients receiving 300 mg
 - No differences in pain scores between groups receiving at least 600 mg
 - 600 mg = Optimal Dose
- Celecoxib (Celebrex) ± Pregabalin (Lyrica®)
 - 1 hour preoperatively and 12 hours after 1-2-level spinal fusion with harvest of iliac crest bone graft was effective at significantly reducing pain at rest and with activity
 - decreased opioid use and less postoperative sedation and nausea than the placebo group, which received PCA morphine alone

Pain Management

- High-dose NSAIDs
 - Should be avoided for the first several months after spinal fusion (Dahners & Mullis, 2004; Li, Zhang, & Cai, 2011)
 - PCA continuous infusions of ketorolac and morphine vs morphine alone for the first 3 days postoperatively : 6 times nonunion



Mobility

- Early Mobility (Take Pain Medicine at least 30 min prior to activity)
- Roll to the side and bring their legs down while simultaneously rising up with the torso from the bed
 - Minimizes twisting at the waist
- Rise from a chair using their legs rather than pushing off with their back
- Walker or other assistive devices



Mobility

- Evaluate patients for inpatient PT referral needs for gait training and a walker evaluation
- Instruct patients to take short walks to avoid excessive fatigue
 - note their preoperative walking endurance
- Prescribing an exercise program starting 4-6 weeks postop may lead to a more rapid reduction in pain and disability than no treatment

Mobility

- Exercise is more effective for functional status at short-term follow-up (Ostelo, Costa, Maher, de Vet, & van Tulder, 2008, 2009)
- None of the studies reported that exercise increased the reoperation rate
- No significant differences between supervised and home exercises and their effects on short-term pain relief or functional status

Other Concerns

- Antispasmodics : Muscle Spasms
- Heat : Spasms and Muscular tension
- Ice : Radicular Pain
- Gentle Massage may be used away from the incision
- Frequently Change Positions \approx 45 min
- Pressure Sore Prevention
- Osteoporosis Management including Vit D deficiency ($< 20\text{ng/mL}$)
- Brace



Psychologic Support

Fear of Patient

- Fear of death
- Fear of pain and discomfort
- Fear of mutilation or alteration in body image
- Fear of anesthesia
- Fear of disruption of life functioning or patterns
- Fear due to lack of knowledge regarding the proposed surgery
- Fear related to previous surgical experiences
- Fear due to the influence of significant others

Psychological Issues

- Easily Tired
- Inability to Concentrate
- Memory Dysfunction
- Confusion, Hallucination, Behavioral Problem
- Self-esteem Issues
- Body image Issues
- Depression
- Sexuality Issues

Psychologic Support

- Body Image Problem
- Psychosocial Factors ≈> Surgical Outcome
 - Optimizing Social Support & Mental Health : imperative (Laxton & Perrin, 2003)
 - Screening Tools : identify psychosocial risk factors of chronic low back pain and disability are available (Chou, Atlas, Stanos, & Rosenquist, 2009)
- Delirium in Old Age

Take Home Message

- Spine Surgeons Should have Medical and Psychological knowledge including Risk Factors and Commodities for Proper Postoperative Care.
- Postoperative Care have to be started from Preoperative Preparation.
- Do not ignore Patient's Speaking.
- Touch both of Patient's Body and Mind



Appendix : Daily Activity Education

Caution

- No Lifting, Bending, Twisting
 - Avoid heavy lifting for the first 4-6 weeks
- Avoid Prolonged Sitting, Standing, Long Car Trips for the first 4-6 wks
- Remind patients to Frequently Change Positions
- Remind patients to Not Drive while using Opioids or other medications that may cause drowsiness
- Explain to patients that Sexual Activity may resume as indicated by the surgeon; generally this is 2-6 weeks after surgery

