



# Prospective Multicenter Surveillance Study of Surgical Site Infection after Spinal Surgery in Korea : A Preliminary Study

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**Objective :** This study aimed to investigate the rates, types, and risk factors of surgical site infection (SSI) following spinal surgery using data from a Korean SSI surveillance system that included diagnoses made by surgeons.

**Methods :** This was a prospective observational study of patients who underwent spinal surgeries at 42 hospitals in South Korea from January 2017 to December 2017. The procedures included spinal fusion, laminectomy, discectomy, and corpectomy. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed.

**Results :** Of the 3080 cases included, 30 showed infection, and the overall SSI rate was 1.0% (an incidence of 1.2% in spinal fusion and 0.6% in laminectomy). Deep incisional infections were the most common type of SSIs (46.7%). Gram-positive bacteria caused 80% of the infections, and coagulase-negative staphylococci, including *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, accounted for 58% of the gram-positive bacteria. A longer preoperative hospital stay was significantly associated with the incidence of SSI after both spinal fusion and laminectomy ( $p=0.013$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). A combined operation also was associated with SSI after laminectomy ( $p=0.032$ ).

**Conclusion :** An SSI surveillance system is important for the accurate analysis of SSI. The incidence of SSI after spinal surgery assessed by a national surveillance system was 1.0%. Additional data collection will be needed in future studies to analyze SSI in spinal surgery.

**Key Words :** Surgical site infection · Spine · Spinal fusion · Laminectomy · Risk factors.

## INTRODUCTION

Surgical site infection (SSI) is the third most frequently reported nosocomial infection, accounting for 14–16% of all infections in hospitalized patients and 38% of all infections in surgical patients<sup>7,15</sup>. SSI is associated with substantial morbidity and mortality, a prolonged hospital stay, and increased ex-

penses<sup>22</sup>. SSIs after spinal surgery have been reported to occur in 0.7–12.0% of patients<sup>18</sup>. The incidence of SSI after spinal surgery is influenced both by patient characteristics and preoperative or intraoperative factors. Known risk factors include advanced age, drug and alcohol abuse, smoking history, diabetes, obesity, malnutrition, immunological insufficiency, surgery for spine trauma, prolonged surgical

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time, high blood loss, posterior approach, use of instrumentation, and a high volume of personnel moving through the operating room<sup>2,8,12,18,19,21,23</sup>.

Many efforts have been made to prevent SSI, one of which is the use of infection surveillance systems. The Korean National Healthcare-Associated Infection Surveillance System (KONIS) is operated by the Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It monitors the current status of SSI in Korea as a whole and helps develop ways to reduce the SSI rate. Hospitals of all sizes are enrolled in the KONIS system. This study aimed to investigate the rates, types, and risk factors for SSI following spinal surgery.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This was a prospective observational study of patients who underwent spinal surgery at 42 hospitals in South Korea from January 2017 to December 2017. The spinal surgeries included spinal fusion, laminectomy, discectomy, and corpectomy. Prophylactic antibiotics were administered to all patients in accordance with the Ministry of Health guidelines. A first-generation cephalosporin was administered within 1 hour before skin incision and was continued for up to 48 hours after surgery. Patients who were under 18 years of age, were transferred, had a fever greater than 38 degrees within 24 hours before surgery, had an American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) class of 4 or higher, underwent more than two operations during their hospital stay, or underwent emergency operations were excluded from the prophylactic antibiotics guidelines. For surveillance, surgical procedures were classified using KONIS-SSI codes, referencing the 2017 electronic data interchange insurance codes. The KONIS-SSI codes for the surgical procedures in this study were spinal fusion (FUSN) and laminectomy (LAM). Table 1 shows the Health Insurance electronic data interchange codes for FUSN and

LAM. Patients were monitored for 90 days after surgery; those discharged or transferred were monitored at outpatient clinics. Patients who passed away within 48 hours after surgery or who did not have the incision site closed were excluded in this study.

### Participating hospital

Hospitals meeting the following criteria were included in the study: first, the surgeon must be designated as the head of the clinic to identify and sign the SSI. Second, monitoring for SSI must be conducted periodically according to standards and methods defined by KONIS-SSI manual, and it must be agreed that KONIS-SSI steering committee confirms the accuracy of data entered by the hospital. Third, it is recommended that a diagnosis of SSI is decided through a review process by the surgeon and infection control specialist, who must complete education by KONIS-SSI steering committee at least once a year. Fourth, it is recommended that procedures and systems of medical institutions are established to share surveillance matters with the surgeon.

### Data

Data were collected by the surgeon performing the surgery and nurse practitioners who had completed the KONIS-SSI steering committee course at least once a year. Data included were age, sex, duration of preoperative hospital stay, elective or emergency surgery, endoscopic procedure, combined surgery, reoperation, surgery for trauma, operation time, wound classification (clean, clean-contaminated, contaminated, or dirty)<sup>3</sup>, ASA classification<sup>1</sup>, National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance-derived risk index<sup>10</sup>, infection, and infecting microorganisms. These values were recorded on standardized worksheets specifically designed according to the guidelines in the KONIS-SSI manual.

**Table 1.** KONIS-SSI and EDI codes for neurosurgical procedures included in the study

KONIS-SSI code	Type of surgery	2017 Health Insurance EDI standard code
FUSN	Spinal fusion	N0444, N0445, N0446, N0447, N0466, N0468, N0469, N1460, N1466, N1469, N2461, N2462, N2463, N2464, N2465, N2466, N2467, N2468, N2469, N2470
LAM	Laminectomy	N0451, N0452, N0453, N1491, N1492, N1493, N1494, N1497, N1498, N1499, N2497, N2498, N2499

KONIS : Korean National Healthcare-Associated Infection Surveillance System, SSI : surgical site infection, EDI : electronic data interchange, FUSN : spinal fusion, LAM : laminectomy

**Table 2.** Criteria for diagnosis of SSI

	Superficial incisional SSI	Deep incisional SSI	Organ/space SSI
Duration of infection	Within 30 days after surgery	Within 90 days after surgery	Within 90 days after surgery
Infection site	Skin or subcutaneous tissue	Deep soft tissue (fascia and muscle layers)	Body area deeper than fascia and muscle layer
Include at least one of the followings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purulent drainage from superficial incision</li> <li>2. Superficial incision dehiscence or opened by the surgeon and there is a positive culture from superficial incision site</li> <li>3. At least one symptom of pain or tenderness, localized swelling, redness, or heat, even if culture test was not performed</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purulent drainage from deep incision but not from organ/space</li> <li>2. Deep incision dehiscence or opened by the surgeon and a positive culture was found from deep incision site</li> <li>3. At least one of fever (&gt;38°C), localized pain, or tenderness, even if culture test was not performed</li> <li>4. Abscess or other evidence of infection of deep incision on direct examination, reoperation, histopathologic or radiologic examination</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purulent drainage from a drain that is placed through a stab wound into the organ/space</li> <li>2. Organisms isolated from an aseptically obtained culture of fluid or tissue in the organ/space</li> <li>3. Abscess or other evidence of infection organ/space on direct examination, reoperation, histopathologic or radiologic examination</li> </ol>

SSI : surgical site infection

### SSI criteria and wound classification

The criteria used to define SSI were established by the CDC in 2017<sup>3,4</sup>. By these criteria, SSI is defined as any infection occurring within 1 month of the operation when no prosthetic material was left in the wound or within 1 year when prosthetic material remained within the operation site. Because the maximum monitoring period in this study was 90 days, SSIs for spinal fusion surgeries using prosthetic materials were defined as infections occurring within 90 days.

SSIs were classified depending on the degree of infection as follows : superficial incisional, deep incisional, and organ/space. These categories involved skin or subcutaneous tissue at the incision, deep soft tissue (fascia and muscle layers) at the incision, or any part of the anatomy (organs or organ spaces), respectively. The diagnosis of SSI was determined when the criteria in Table 2 were met.

Wounds were classified according to the degree of contamination of a surgical wound at the time of the operation as follows : clean, clean-contaminated, contaminated, and dirty.

### Statistical analysis

To compare differences in variables between the SSI and non-SSI groups, Fisher’s exact test or the Wilcoxon rank sum test were used. Spearman correlation analysis was used to ex-

amine the correlation between hospital scale and SSI rate. *p*-values of <0.05 were considered significant. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were conducted with SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC, USA). The objective of the univariate analysis was to determine the risk factors linked to SSI, followed by multivariate analysis for variables with *p*-values <0.2.

## RESULTS

### Population

A total of 3080 cases (spinal fusion, 1768; laminectomy, 1312) fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were enrolled in the study from January 2017 to December 2017. Among spinal fusion cases, there were 1746 cases in the non-SSI group and 22 cases in the SSI group. The mean preoperative hospital stay was significantly longer in the SSI group than in the non-SSI group (15 vs. 41 days; *p*<0.001). Significant differences in ASA class were not found between the groups (Table 3). Among laminectomy cases, there were 1304 cases in the non-SSI group and eight cases in the SSI group. The mean preoperative hospital stay was significantly longer in the SSI group than in the non-SSI group (12 vs. 33 days; *p*=0.004) (Table 4).

**Table 3.** General characteristics of non-SSI and SSI groups of FUSN cases

	Non-SSI group (n=1746)	SSI group (n=22)	p-value
Sex (female)	895 (51.3)	14 (63.6)	0.248
Age (years)	65 (0–91)	69.5 (34–82)	0.115
Endoscopic operation	4 (0.2)	0	1
Emergency operation	153 (8.8)	2 (9.1)	1
Trauma	213 (12.2)	3 (13.6)	0.745
Combined operation	348 (19.9)	3 (13.6)	0.597
Reoperation	46 (2.6)	0	1
Duration of preoperative hospital stay	15 (3–459)	41 (10–122)	<0.001*
Wound classification			
Clean	1714 (98.2)	21 (95.5)	0.197
Clean-contaminated	10 (0.6)	1 (4.6)	
Contaminated	5 (0.3)	0	
Dirty	17 (1.0)	0	
ASA classification			
1	270 (15.5)	1 (4.6)	0.384
2	1086 (62.2)	14 (63.6)	
3	375 (21.5)	7 (31.8)	
4	12 (0.7)	0	
5	3 (0.2)	0	
Operation time (minutes)	170 (40–765)	183 (105–450)	0.281
Over T-hour <sup>†</sup>	429 (24.6)	7 (31.8)	0.433

Values are presented as median value (interquartile ranges) or number (%). \*Statistically significant differences (*p*-value <0.05). <sup>†</sup>The exact 75th percentile of procedure duration in minutes. SSI : surgical site infection, FUSN : spinal fusion, ASA : American Society of Anesthesiologists

**Table 4.** General characteristics of non-SSI and SSI groups of LAM cases

	Non-SSI group (n=1304)	SSI group (n=8)	p-value
Sex (female)	610 (46.8)	4 (50.0)	1
Age (years)	61 (6–98)	70 (26–74)	0.404
Endoscopic operation	63 (4.8)	0	1
Emergency operation	132 (10.1)	1 (12.5)	0.576
Trauma	36 (2.8)	0	1
Combined operation	25 (1.9)	1 (12.5)	0.148
Reoperation	24 (1.8)	1 (12.5)	0.143
Duration of preoperative hospital stay	12 (2–121)	33 (7–83)	0.004*
Wound classification			
Clean	1272 (97.6)	7 (87.5)	0.046*
Clean-contaminated	5 (0.4)	1 (12.5)	
Contaminated	9 (0.7)	0	
Dirty	18 (1.4)	0	
ASA classification			
1	321 (24.6)	0	0.253
2	753 (57.8)	6 (75.0)	
3	222 (17.0)	2 (25.0)	
4	8 (0.6)	0	
5	0	0	
Operation time (minutes)	115 (30–790)	149 (55–515)	0.333
Over T-hour <sup>†</sup>	317 (24.3)	2 (25.0)	1

Values are presented as median value (interquartile ranges) or number (%). \*Statistically significant differences (*p*-value <0.05). <sup>†</sup>The exact 75th percentile of procedure duration in minutes. SSI : surgical site infection, LAM : laminectomy, ASA : American Society of Anesthesiologists

### Surgical procedures

For the variables of endoscopic, emergency, combined, re-operation, and trauma, no significant differences were found between the two SSI groups for either spinal fusion or laminectomy. Additionally, operation time and over T-hour (the exact 75th percentile of the procedure duration in minutes) were not different between the two SSI groups for either spinal fusion or laminectomy. However, there was a significant difference in wound class between both SSI groups for laminectomy ( $p=0.046$ ) (Table 4).

### SSI incidence

We investigated the SSI rate by the National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance risk index category. For spinal fusion, the SSI rate was 0.9% for risk index 0, 1.9% for risk index 1, and 1.0% for risk index 2. The overall SSI rate for spinal fusion was 1.2%. For laminectomy, the SSI rate was 0.5% for risk index 0 and 0.9% for risk index 1; no SSI occurred in patients with risk index 2 or 3. The overall SSI rate for laminectomy

was 0.6% (Table 5). In spinal fusion cases, deep incisional infections were the most common, occurring in 12 out of 22 cases. Among laminectomy cases, although only eight infections occurred, superficial incisional infections were the most common (Table 6). The overall SSI rates for spinal surgery varied according to hospital size; however, the correlation was not significant ( $p=0.333$ , Table 7). Of all causative organisms, gram-positive bacteria accounted for 77% (10/13) in spinal fusion and 100% (2/2) in laminectomy, and *S. epidermidis* was the most common (31%) bacteria (Fig. 1). Identification rates of bacteria were 59% (13/22) in spinal fusion and 25% (2/8) in laminectomy. The overall identification rate of bacteria were 50% (15/30).

### SSI risk factors

Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed to identify risk factors for SSI. On univariate analyses of spinal fusion, the  $p$ -values for age and preoperative hospital stay duration were  $<0.2$ , and in a multivariate analysis of both vari-

**Table 5.** Pooled mean and key percentiles of the distribution of SSI rates by risk index

KONIS-SSI code	Risk Index	Number of participating hospitals	Number of operations	Number of infections	Infection rate (%)
FUSN	0	29	1025	9	0.9
	1	28	637	12	1.9
	2	21	100	1	1
	3	4	6	0	0
	Total	30	1768	22	1.2
LAM	0	24	813	4	0.5
	1	24	424	4	0.9
	2	16	71	0	0
	3	2	4	0	0
	Total	25	1312	8	0.6

KONIS : Korean National Healthcare-associated Infections Surveillance System, SSI : surgical site infection, FUSN : spinal fusion, LAM : laminectomy

**Table 6.** Type of SSIs according to operative procedure

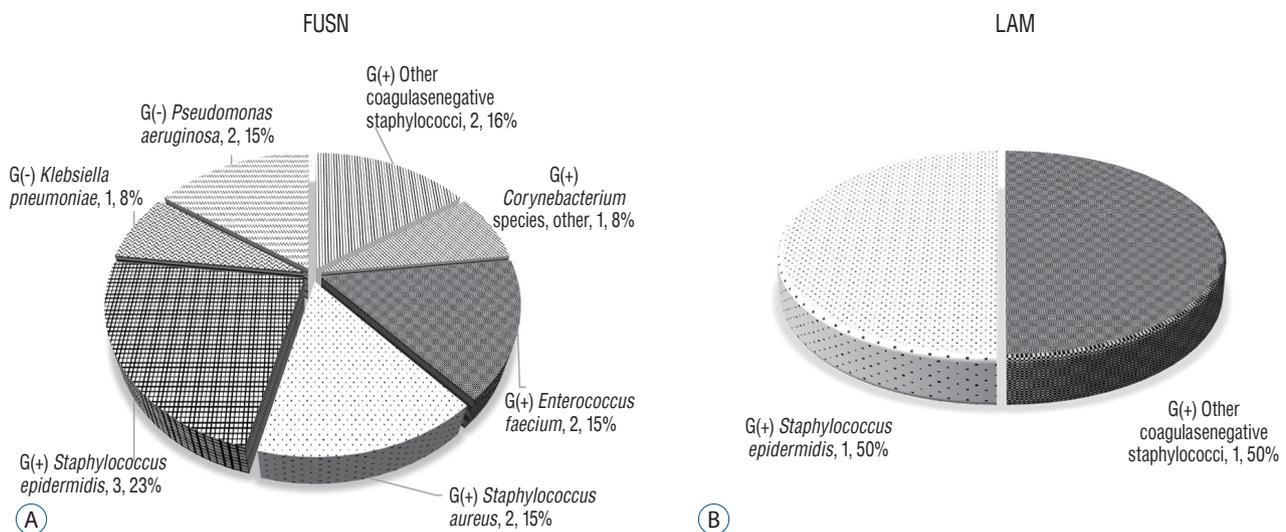
KONIS-SSI code	Type of surgery	Number of operations	Number of infections	Superficial incisional infections	Deep incisional infections	Organ/space infections
FUSN	Spinal fusion	1768	22	4	12	6
LAM	Laminectomy	1312	8	4	2	2
Total		3080	30	8	14	8

KONIS : Korean National Healthcare-associated Infections Surveillance System, SSI : surgical site infection, FUSN : spinal fusion, LAM : laminectomy

**Table 7.** SSI rate by hospital size in spinal surgery

Number of beds	Number of operations	Number of infections	Infection rate (%)	Superficial incisional infections	Deep incisional infections	Organ/space infections
≤199	11	0	0	0	0	0
200–299	336	3	0.89	2	0	1
300–499	118	0	0	0	0	0
500–749	902	13	1.44	3	3	7
750–899	1115	11	0.99	3	8	0
900–999	143	2	1.4	0	2	0
≥1000	455	1	0.22	0	1	0
Total	3080	30	0.97	8	14	8

SSI : surgical site infection



**Fig. 1.** Microorganisms identified in surgical site infections. A : Spinal fusion (FUSN), B : Laminectomy (LAM). FUSN : spinal fusion, LAM : laminectomy.

ables, only preoperative hospital stay was significantly associated with SSI incidence ( $p=0.013$ , Table 8). On univariate analyses of laminectomy, the  $p$ -values for combined operation, reoperation, duration of preoperative hospital stay, and operation time were  $<0.2$ , and in a multivariate analysis of these four variables, combined operation and preoperative hospital stay were significantly associated with SSI incidence ( $p=0.032$  and  $p<0.001$ , Table 9).

## DISCUSSION

The importance of infection surveillance was acknowledged more than 40 years ago by the CDC and the Joint Commis-

sion on Accreditation of Hospitals and has proven effective in preventing SSIs<sup>5,6</sup>. The Study on the Efficacy of Nosocomial Infection Control, which investigated whether a surveillance program could reduce the infection rate, concluded based on U.S. data that SSIs can be reduced by up to 32% if the following four conditions are met : 1) surveillance is continuous; 2) management efforts are aggressive; 3) infection control personnel are qualified; and 4) feedback on the infection rate is provided to the surgeon, especially for SSI<sup>11</sup>. Therefore, continuous SSI surveillance and feedback on the surveillance results are important for the prevention of SSI.

In Korea, a nationwide surveillance system for SSI was first applied to orthopedic artificial joint surgery in 2006. However, because surgeons' participation in the infection surveil-

**Table 8.** Univariate and multivariate analysis of factors influencing SSI in FUSN

	Univariate			Multivariate		
	OR	95% CI	p-value	Adjusted OR	95% CI	p-value
Sex (female vs. male)	1.66	0.70, 3.99	0.253			
Age	1.03	0.99, 1.07	0.178*	1.03	0.98, 1.07	0.222
Endoscopic OP (yes vs. no)	<0.001	<0.001, >999.999	0.992			
Emergency OP (yes vs. no)	1.04	0.24, 4.50	0.956			
Trauma (yes vs. no)	1.14	0.33, 3.87	0.838			
Combined OP (yes vs. no)	0.63	0.19, 2.16	0.466			
Reoperation (yes vs. no)	<0.001	<0.001, >999.999	0.982			
Duration of preoperative hospital stay	1.01	1.00, 1.03	0.007*	1.02	1.00, 1.03	0.013 <sup>†</sup>
Wound classification (contaminated and dirty vs. clean and clean-contaminated)	<0.001	<0.001, >999.999	0.988			
ASA classification (ASA 1, 2 vs. ASA 3, 4, 5)	1.62	0.66, 4.01	0.294			
Operation time	1	1.00, 1.01	0.242			
Over T-hour <sup>‡</sup>	1.43	0.58, 3.54	0.435			

\*p-value <0.2. <sup>†</sup>Statistically significant differences (p-value <0.05). <sup>‡</sup>The exact 75th percentile of procedure duration in minutes. SSI : surgical site infection, FUSN : spinal fusion, OR : odds ratio, CI : confidence interval, OP : operation, ASA : American Society of Anesthesiologists

**Table 9.** Univariate and multivariate analysis of factors influencing SSI in LAM

	Univariate			Multivariate		
	OR	95% CI	p-value	Adjusted OR	95% CI	p-value
Sex (female vs. male)	1.14	0.28, 4.57	0.856			
Age	1.02	0.97, 1.07	0.557			
Endoscopic OP (yes vs. no)	<0.001	<0.001, >999.999	0.978			
Emergency OP (yes vs. no)	1.27	0.16, 10.39	0.824			
Trauma (yes vs. no)	<0.001	<0.001, >999.999	0.983			
Combined OP (yes vs. no)	7.31	0.87, 61.65	0.068*	14.75	1.26, 172.84	0.032 <sup>†</sup>
Reoperation (yes vs. no)	7.62	0.90, 64.36	0.062*	4.17	0.40, 43.90	0.235
Duration of preoperative hospital stay	1.05	1.03, 1.08	<0.001*	1.07	1.03, 1.11	<0.001 <sup>†</sup>
Wound classification (contaminated and dirty vs. clean and clean-contaminated)	<0.001	<0.001, >999.999	0.985			
ASA classification (ASA 1, 2 vs. ASA 3, 4, 5)	1.56	0.31, 7.76	0.589			
Operation time	1	1.00, 1.01	0.165*	1.01	1.00, 2.88	0.212
Over T-hour <sup>‡</sup>	1.04	0.21, 5.17	0.963			

\*p-value <0.2. <sup>†</sup>Statistically significant differences (p-value <0.05). <sup>‡</sup>The exact 75th percentile of procedure duration in minutes. SSI : surgical site infection, LAM : laminectomy, OR : odds ratio, CI : confidence interval, OP : operation, ASA : American Society of Anesthesiologists

lance system has not been mandatory, the accuracy of SSI diagnosis and surveillance has been low. Therefore, the 2017 KONIS manual mandated the participation of surgeons. This study is the first to evaluate the results of the national survey of SSI after spinal surgery using the 2017 KONIS manual. We analyzed the incidence of SSI in spinal surgery to find possible

means to prevent SSI.

In this study, gram-positive bacteria caused 80% of the infections, and coagulase-negative staphylococci including *S. epidermidis* accounted for 58% of the gram-positive bacteria. Most of the coagulase-negative staphylococci associated with clinical disease are commonly found in the skin and mucous

membranes. *S. epidermidis* is the most prevalent species, accounting for approximately 60–70% of all coagulase-negative staphylococci on the skin<sup>9,13</sup>. Typically, coagulase-negative staphylococci are considered to be less virulent than *S. aureus* and present as indolent rather than acute infections. Despite this, they are associated with a myriad of both community-acquired and hospital-acquired diseases. Coagulase-negative staphylococci have been implicated as the causative agents in urinary tract disease, catheter-related infections, shunt infections, pneumonia, endophthalmitis, surgical wound infections, breast abscess, osteomyelitis, and native valve endocarditis. Moreover, these infections are associated with medical devices because of their propensity to form a protective biofilm<sup>13,16,17,25,26</sup>. Especially in spinal fusion surgery using metallic materials such as screws and rods, the risk of infections by coagulase-negative staphylococci can be high. The single most important factor that can reduce the incidence of infections due to coagulase-negative staphylococci is strict adherence to hand washing, both before and after examining patients. A meticulous surgical technique is paramount to limit intraoperative bacterial contamination, particularly in procedures where foreign bodies are being introduced. Strict attention to technique when inserting lines and catheters may also contribute to an overall reduction in infection rates<sup>13</sup>.

In our study, the duration of the preoperative hospital stay was found to be a common risk factor in both the spinal fusion and laminectomy categories. The duration of the preoperative hospital stay is lengthened by patients' poor general condition, medical history such as diabetes mellitus or hypertension, infection status such as pneumonia, urinary tract infection, and other complications in the case of trauma. These conditions can increase the risk of SSI. However, a poor general condition is not enough to explain the duration of the preoperative hospital stay because other variables, such as ASA class and age, are also related to a poor general condition. Future research will need to analyze the causes of longer preoperative periods.

This study has several limitations. First, although the total number of patients was high, the infection group size was small, only 22 of 1746 cases. Because the number of SSIs for each variable was mostly less than 10, the statistical power was somewhat low. There were some possibilities for lower SSI rates. The diagnostic criteria for incisional infection included pus discharge, tenderness, local edema, redness, and fever at

the time of bacterium isolation from the skin incision site or subcutaneous tissue culture. However, it is possible that the surgeon did not always diagnose infection when observing some of the above symptoms, reserving the diagnosis for cases with definitive evidence of infection such as pus at the skin incision site. Additionally, in accordance with the SSI criteria used, postoperative infections were defined as those occurring within 1 year of the operation when prosthetic material remained within the operation site. The SSI rate could have been underestimated because our study analyzed preliminary data that was only 90 days in duration. In future studies, a 1-year monitoring period will be necessary. Second, the data of variables previously identified as risk factors were limited. Previously reported risk factors for SSI after spinal surgery include patient-related factors such as advanced age, smoking, diabetes, obesity, and malnutrition, as well as surgery-related factors such as placement of posterior instrumentation, fusion extending to the sacrum, multilevel surgery, the presence of a wound hematoma, pre- or perioperative steroid therapy, and increased intraoperative blood loss<sup>14,18,20,23,24</sup>. Nationwide surveillance in this study was conducted on various types of surgeries, including general surgery, orthopedics, thoracic surgery, urology, and obstetrics and gynecology. Therefore, detailed factors focused on spinal surgery were not analyzed. Additional data collection will be needed in future studies to analyze SSI in spinal surgery.

Meanwhile, a nationwide survey on SSI in Korea has been conducted by internal medicine staff. However, there may be differences in the diagnosis of SSI as judged by surgeons and physicians. This study was the first national survey of SSI to be based on surgeons' diagnoses. Although the risk factors for SSI were not definitively identified owing to the lack of analysis of several variables, we believe that it is also very meaningful because it shows reliable results of the SSI rate in spinal surgery. In future studies, when more data are accumulated and appropriate factors are analyzed, more valuable results can be obtained to help reduce the incidence of SSI.

## CONCLUSION

SSIs can cause many serious problems in spinal surgery. Identifying SSI risk factors can help reduce mortality, morbidity, and improve patient care. An SSI surveillance system is

important for the accurate analysis of SSI. The incidence of SSI after spinal surgery assessed by a national surveillance system was 1.0%, including an incidence of 1.2% for spinal fusion and 0.6% for laminectomy. The preoperative hospital stay duration was a common independent risk factor for both spinal fusion and laminectomy SSIs. A combined operation was the other risk factor in laminectomy surgeries.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

## INFORMED CONSENT

Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in this study.

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