## (Fixed Sagittal Imbalance)

## Smith-Petersen

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## Comparison of Smith-Petersen Osteotomy versus Pedicle Subtraction Osteotomy for the Correction of Fixed Sagittal Imbalance

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Abstract –

Study Design: A retrospective study.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to compare the results between Smith-Petersen and pedicle subtraction osteotomies for fixed sagittal imbalance, and to determine the specific indications for each.

Literature Review Summary: Smith-Petersen (SPO) and pedicle subtraction osteotomies (PSO) are the techniques most commonly used to correct fixed sagittal imbalance of the spine, but there are no reports regarding the superiority of either technique. A Smith-Petersen osteotomy is an anterior opening wedge osteotomy, which hinges on the posterior edge of the intervertebral disc, while a pedicle subtraction osteotomy is a posterior closing wedge osteotomy, without distracting the anterior column, with the hinge on the anterior aspect of the vertebral body.

Materials and Methods: Thirty patients (mean age 40.1 years, range 20 64 years), who underwent a SPO, were compared with forty-one patients (mean age 54.5 years, range 21 73 years) who underwent a PSO. The SPO was carried out in more than three segments (3 SPOs) in fourteen of the SPO group. The average follow-up periods were 4.6 years, ranging from 2 to 11.5 years, and 3.8 years, ranging from 2 to 7.1 years, for the SPO and PSO groups, respectively. Patients were evaluated by standing radiographs, chart review and outcome questionnaires.

Results: The mean correction of the kyphotic angle at the osteotomy sites for the SPOs was 10.7 per segment, and for those with 3 SPOs and the PSO group the average total corrections were  $33.0 \pm 9.2$  and  $31.7 \pm 9.0$ , respectively. However, the improvement in sagittal balance was less statistically significantly with 3 SPOs ( $5.5 \pm 4.5$  cm) than with a PSO ( $11.2 \pm 7.2$  cm; p-0.01). Comparing 3 SPOs to one PSO, the SPO group decompensated the patients more substantially to the concavity (p-0.02). The mean estimated blood loss (adding up all anterior and posterior surgeries) for the procedures were  $1398 \pm 738$  ( $1392 \pm 664$  mL in the 3 SPO group), and  $2617 \pm 1645$  mL in the SPO and PSO groups, respectively (p-0.001; p-0.01). The total operative times for the SPO versus the PSO groups were similar, with no statistical difference. There were substantial complications in

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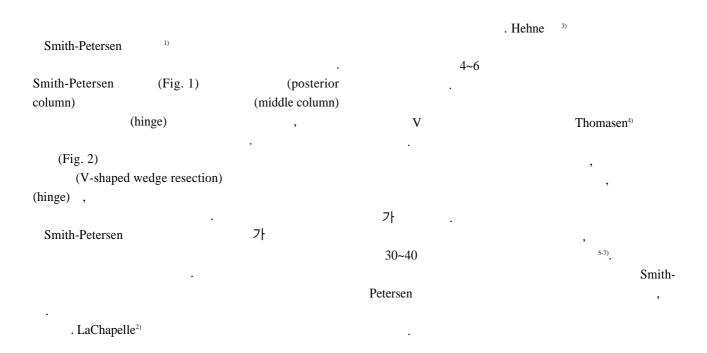
Seung Rim Park, M.D.

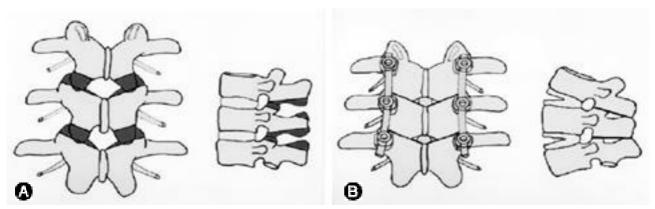
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both groups, with 13 in the 30 SPO and 30 in the 41 PSO patients. In the SPO group, 1 patient had a non-union at an osteotomy site; in the PSO group, 2 patients had a non-union at an osteotomy site. The mean Oswestry score improved from  $42.3 \pm 14.2$  to  $21.3 \pm 14.8$  postoperatively at the last visit for the SPO group and, it improved from  $47.9 \pm 15.8$  preoperatively to  $29.7 \pm 18.3$  at the last visit in PSO group (p=0.35).

Conclusions: When comparing 3 Smith-Petersen osteotomies to one pedicle subtraction osteotomy, the corrections of kyphosis were almost identical, but the improvement in the C7 plumb was significantly better in the PSO group. There was a significantly greater likelihood of decompensating the patient to the concavity with the 3 SPOs than with a single PSO (p-0.02). The total operative time for the SPO versus the PSO groups showed no statistical difference. However, the blood loss was substantially greater in the PSO group (p-0.001).

Key Words: Fixed sagittal imbalance, Smith-Petersen osteotomy, Pedicle subtraction osteotomy.

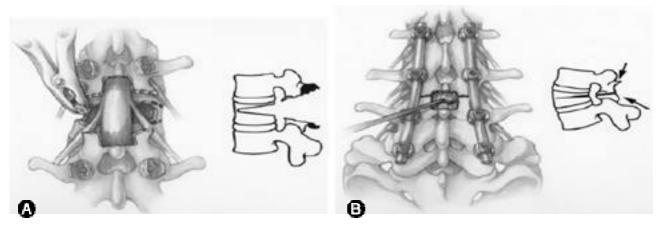




**Fig. 1.** Smith-Petersen osteotomy (**A**) Resection of bone from the posterior elements. (**B**) By closing the wedge posteriorly, the disc space opens anteriorly.

2.

(Washington University in St. Louis, 1. Department of Orthopedic Surgery, USA) 1989 2001 . Smith-Petersen SPO 24 ) 30 ( 2 가 40.1 (20~64 **PSO** 41 8 33 ) 54.5 (21~73 ) . PSO SPO . SPO 4.6 2 (2~13) **PSO** 3.8 1 3 . SPO  $(2 \sim 7.1)$ Smith-Petersen 1-(n=23),(n=1),(n=2),1 (n=4). PSO 2, 2-3, 3-4 4 (n=23),(n=11),45 (n=4),(Table 1). (n=3)



**Fig. 2.** Pedicle subtraction osteotomy. (**A**) V-shaped wedge resection of the vertebral body including both pedicles and posterior elements. (**B**) This osteotomy does not create an anterior bony defect.

Table 1. Demographic Data

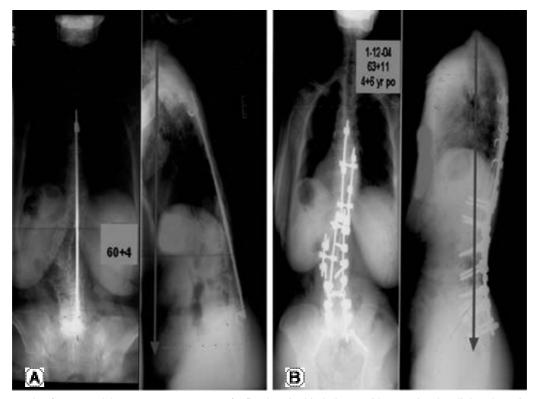
	Smith-Petersen Osteotomy (n=30)	Pedicle subtraction Osteotomy (n=41)	P value
Age (years)	40.1 ± 11	54.5 ± 11.7	P<0.0001
Male/Female	7/23	8/33	
Followup (years)	$4.6 \pm 2.83$	$3.8 \pm 1.48$	
Number of prior surgeries (n)	1.77 ± 1.14	$2.13 \pm 1.52$	P=0.47
Etiology of deformity (n)			
Idiopathic scoliosis	23	23	
Degenerative sagittal imbalance	1	11	
Post-traumatic kyphosis	2	4	
Ankylosing spondylitis	4	3	

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                                                                              (P=0.77). SPO
            . SPO
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                                                                                                  4
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Table 2. Correction of Kyphotic Angle at Osteotomy Site

	Correction (°)	Correction per segment ( °)
Smith-Petersen osteotomy (n=30)	$24.9 \pm 10.6$	$10.7 \pm 3.2$
3 segments of SPO (n=14)	$33.0 \pm 9.2$	$9.7 \pm 2.6$
Pedicle subtraction osteotomy (n=41)	$31.7 \pm 9.0$	$31.7 \pm 9.0$
P value between (3 SPO and PSO	>0.5	

4 cm . 가



**Fig. 3.** An example of preop and 4 year postop treatment of a fixed sagittal imbalance with a one-level pedicle subtraction osteotomy. tiple Smith-Petersen osteotomies. (**A**) Preoperative long-cassette standing coronal radiograph and sagittal radiograph (**B**) Postoperative long-cassette standing coronal radiograph and sagittal radiograph

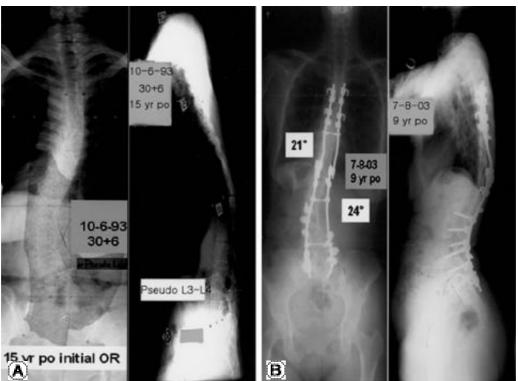
Table 3. Correction of Sagittal and Coronal Balance

	SVA* Preop (cm)	SVA Ultimate Postop (cm)	Correction Sagittal balance (cm)	Correction Coronal Balance** (cm)
Smith-Petersen osteotomy (n=30)	$5.83 \pm 4.23$	$1.88 \pm 4.45$	$3.95 \pm 5.0$	-0.73 ± 1.9
High SPO ( 3; n=14)	$5.99 \pm 5.89$	$0.50 \pm 3.35$	$5.49 \pm 4.5$	$-0.84 \pm 1.8$
Pedicle subtraction osteotomy (n=41)	$16.04 \pm 7.22$	$4.85 \pm 5.27$	$11.19 \pm 7.2$	$0.48 \pm 1.4$
P value between 3 SPO and PSO			< 0.001	< 0.02

<sup>\*</sup>Sagittal Vertical Axis: Measured as a plumb dropped from C7 on the standing lateral radiograph referable to the posterior aspect of the L5-S1 disc

<sup>\*\*(-)</sup> means worsening of coronal balance.

가 (P=0.596). 5 **PSO** 2 . SPO 30 10 (33%) 15가 , PSO 41 22 (55%) . 1 28가 (Table 5). . 2 가 (cauda equina) . 2 SPO 6



**Fig. 4.** An example of multiple Smith-Petersen osteotomies. (**A**) Preoperative long-cassette standing coronal radiograph and sagittal radiograph (**B**) Postoperative long-cassette standing coronal radiograph and sagittal radiograph showing excellent correction of the sagittal deformity, but worsening of the coronal balance.

Table 4. Estimated Blood Loss and Operative Time

	Blood Loss (mL)*	Operative Time (hours)*
SPO (n=30)	$1398 \pm 738$	$12.6 \pm 3.7$
3 SPO (n=14)	$1392 \pm 664$	$13.6 \pm 4.6$
PSO (n=41)	$2617 \pm 1645$	$12.1 \pm 3.6$
P value between 3 SPO and PSO	<0.01	>0.5

<sup>\*</sup>Includes all the anterior and posterior procedures, under the same anesthetic or a staged operation. Does not include subsequent revision surgeries.

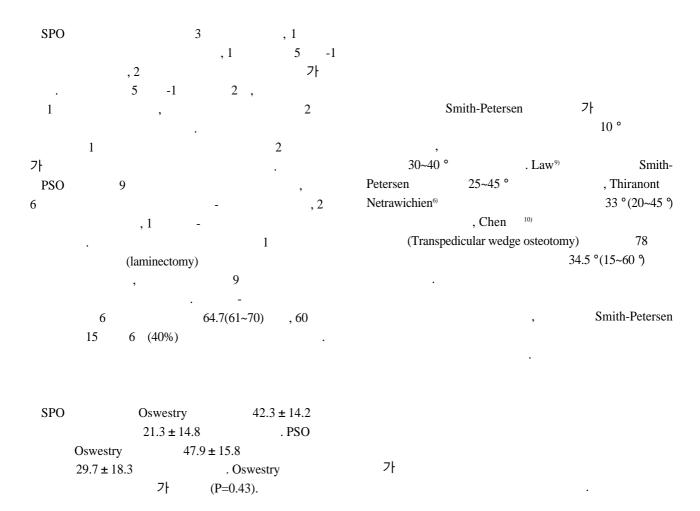


 Table 5. Complications

S	mith-Petersen osteotomy (n=30)	Pedicle subtraction osteotomy (n=41)
Early complications		
Dural tear	1	3
Deep vein thrombosis	1	2
Transient neurologic deficit	1	3
Postoperative respiratory distress	0	2
Myocardial infarction	0	1
Abdominal compartment syndrome	0	1
Upper extremity compartment syndrome	0	1
Unilateral visual field defect	0	1
Wound infection, superficial	3	1
Substantial coronal imbalance (>4 cm)	4	0
Late complications		
Pseudarthrosis at thoracic spine away from osteo	tomy 0	6
At the osteotomy site(s)	1	2
At the lumbosacral level (L5-S1)	2	1
Breakdown of L5-S1	1	3
Proximal junctional kyphosis	1	1

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          11.2 \pm 7.2 \text{ cm}
Smith-Petersen
                          5.49 \pm 4.5 \text{ cm}
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aprotinin antifibrinolytic

agent

Smith-Petersen

Smith-Petersen

Smith-Petersen

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Smith-Petersen
                              (Fixed Sagittal Imbalance) Smith-Petersen
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Osteotomy, SPO)
                            (Pedicle Subtraction Osteotomy, PSO)
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\pm 5.9 \text{ cm}) PSO (11.2 \pm 7.2 \text{ cm})
                                               (p<0.001).
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1.4 cm) 3 SPO (-0.73 \pm 1.9 \text{cm})
                                              (p=0.003).
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PSO 2617 \pm 1645 \text{ mL} (p=0.001).
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                                      47.9 \pm 15.8 29.7 \pm 18.3
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