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Factors Affecting Segmental Lordotic Angle After Posterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion Using Metal Cage

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- Abstract -

Study Design: This is a retrospective study

Objectives: We tried to find out what kind of factors affect the segmental lordotic angle improvement after performing posterior lumbar interbody (PLIF) fusion using a metal cage. The study was done using radiographic measurements.

Summary of Literature Review: For degenerative spinal disease, PLIF with using a metal cage is an effective way to fuse and restore segmental lordosis of the lumbar spine.

Materials and Methods: The study included 104 patients (65 males, 39 females). Radiographs of the antero-posterior, lateral, flexion and extension views that were taken during the preoperative period and the follow-up 6 months were evaluated for the L4-5 segmental lordosis angle, cage invagination, cage position and disc height. Then, statistical analysis was performed using the Pearson method to determine which factors affected the segmental lordotic angle correction.

Results: The increase of the anterior disc height on the postoperative lateral radiograph (=0.303, p=0.01) and the increase of lordosis on the preoperative extension radiograph (=0.384, p=0.01) showed statistically positive correlation with the increase of the postoperative segmental lordosis angle. When comparing between the 4 ° and 8 ° cages, the more angle the cage had, the more segmental angle was restored and this was statistically correlated (P=0.05). However, the amount of segmental lordosis angle correction was not as much as the angle of the cage that was used. Other factors such as cage invagination and cage position didn't show statistical correlation.

Conclusions: Posterior lumbar interbody fusion using a metal cage is useful method for restoring the lumbar segmental lordosis angle only if the disc is flexible enough to be distracted (ED note: distracted is the word you want?) sufficiently intraoperatively or if it allows good segmental lordosis, as seen on the preoperative extension radiograph. Correction of the segmental lordosis angle using a wedged cage with a larger angle was not always satisfactory because it did not restore as much angle as the angle of cage that was used.

Key Words: Lumbar lordosis, Posterior lumbar interbody fusion, Metal cage, Segmental lordosis angle.

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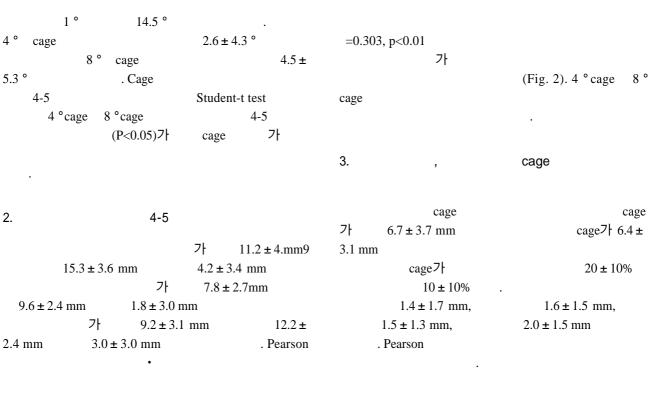
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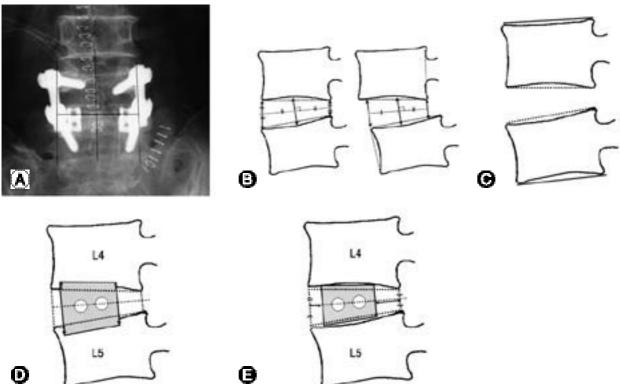


Fig. 1. (A) Cage position on coronal plane was measured by distance of medial margin of each cage from spinous process. (B) Disc space height was measured from anterior, middle and posterior margin of disc. (C). Segmental lordosis angle of L4-5 was measured from cobb's angle beetween upper and lower end plate. (D) Cage invagination was measured from 4 position. Anterior-superior, anterior-inferior, posterior-superior, posterior-inferior. (E) Cage position was measured in lateral film by the distance from anterior disc margin to anterior margin of cage and posterior disc margin to posterior margin of cage.

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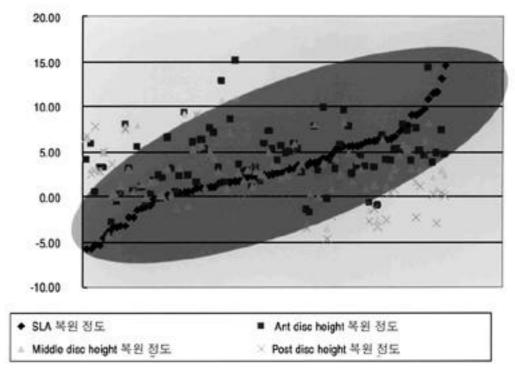


Fig. 2. The more anterior disc height was restored postoperatively, the more segmental lordosis angle was restored.

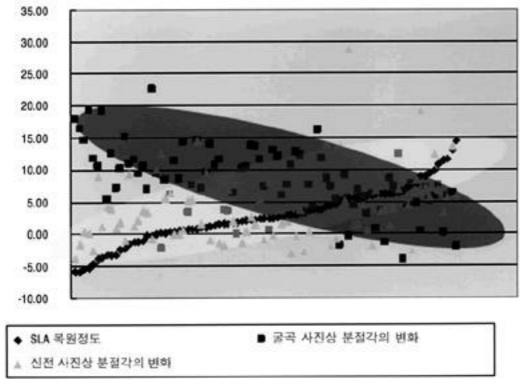
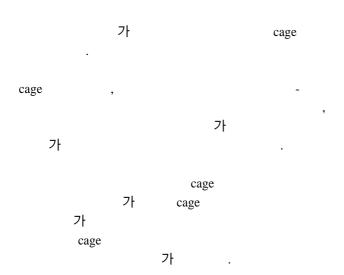


Fig. 3. The more lordotic change was noted on preoperative extension view, the more segmetal lordotic angle was restored, the less kyphotic change was noted on preoperative flexion view, the more segmental lordotic angle was resorted.

 $3.4 \pm$ 4. 3.2 mm 4-5 $1.4 \pm 2.9 \text{ mm}$ 4.5 ± 6.1 ° $10.5 \pm 3.5 \text{ mm}$ 8.2 $7.9 \pm 2.6 \text{ mm}$ ± 5.3 ° 16.5 $2.6 \pm 2.4 \text{ mm}$, ± 7.4 ° 0 ± 2.0 3.7 ± 5.4 ° 9.8 . Pearson mm ± 3.3 mm $10.1 \pm 3.3 \text{ mm}$ 가 4-5 =-0.557, p<0.01 $0.1 \pm 1.9 \text{ mm}$, $0.8 \pm 1.9 \text{ mm}$. Pearson 가 4-5 =0.384, p<0.01 (Fig. 3). 가 cage cage 5. 4-5 $7.9 \pm 4.0 \text{ mm}$ 가 $12.8 \pm 5.2 \text{ mm}$ L5 L5 0 0 Fig. 4. (A) The cage invagination into end plate would decrease the amount of segmental lordosis angle restoration. (\boldsymbol{B}) The more cage advancement into anterior, the more segmental lordosis angle will be restored. (C). On coronal plane, the more cage divergence, the more intervertebral disc space widening will happen.

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