

Effect of Posterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion for Maintaining the Reduction in Isthmic Spondylolisthesis

Ye-Soo Park, M.D., Woo-Jin Cho, M.D.,
Suk-Hwan Kim, M.D., and Jae-Lim Cho, M.D.

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Hanyang University College of Medicine

– Abstract –

Study Design: This is a retrospective study on the effect of posterior lumbar interbody fusion for maintaining the reduction in isthmic spondylolisthesis patients.

Objectives: We evaluated the efficacy of performing posterior lumbar interbody fusion for maintaining the reduction in isthmic spondylolisthesis.

Summary of the Literature Review: There have been many reports regarding the surgical treatment of spondylolisthesis. Although there are many reports that the clinical results have nothing to do with the reduction, many surgeons have tried to maintain the reduction. However, the question about what kind of fusion modality is the most effective for maintaining the reduction is still controversial.

Material and Method: Between August 2002 and January 2004, 24 patients with isthmic spondylolisthesis were operated on. 14 underwent posterolateral fusion alone (group A) and 10 underwent additional posterior interbody fusion (group B). These two groups were compared in terms of the clinical results, the radiological changes and fusion rates.

Results: the reduction rate were 11.81% and 7.32% in the PLF and PLF+PLIF groups, respectively ($p>0.05$). The reduction losses were 0.19% and 0.35% in the PLF and PLF+PLIF groups, respectively ($p>0.05$). The changes after fusion were 0.11% and 0.10% in the PLF and PLF+PLIF groups, respectively ($p>0.05$). There was no case of nonunion. The satisfaction rates were 86% and 83% in the PLF and PLF+PLIF groups, respectively ($p>0.05$).

Conclusions: In our study, the addition of posterior interbody fusion showed no benefit in maintaining correction. If solid fusion can be obtained, then posterolateral fusion seems to be sufficient enough to maintain correction in isthmic spondylolisthesis. The authors think that further studies are mandatory because of the small number subjects in our study.

Key Words: Isthmic spondylolisthesis, Posterior interbody fusion, Maintenance of reduction

Address reprint requests to

Jae-Lim Cho, M.D.

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Hanyang University College of Medicine
17 Haengdang-dong, Sungdong-gu, Seoul, 133-792, Korea
Tel: 82-2-2290-8485, Fax: 82-2-2299-3774, E-mail: jlcho@hanyang.ac.kr

가 B
가
가
Katz
(Table 2).
A
86
가
14)
1-9)
가
1-3)
2002 8 2004 1
가 가 24
A 14
, B 10 A
가
, 3 , 6
erding 10), Taillard 11)
Lenke (Table 1),

Table 2. Katz's satisfaction scale
How Satisfied Are You With:

The overall result of back operation?
Very satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Somewhat dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
Relief of pain following the operation?
Very satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Somewhat dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
Your ability to walk following the operation?
Very satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Somewhat dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
Your ability to do housework, yard work, or job following the operation?
Very satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Somewhat dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
Your strength in the thighs, legs, and feet?
Very satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Somewhat dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
Your balance, or steadiness on your feet?
Very satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Somewhat dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied

Table 1. Lenke's fusion grade

A	Solid, big trabeculated fusion bilaterally (definitely solid)
B	Solid, big fusion mass unilaterally with a small fusion mass on the contralateral aspect (possibly solid)
C	Small, thin fusion masses bilaterally with apparent crack (probably not solid)
D	Graft resorption bilaterally or fusion mass with obvious bilateral pseudoarthrosis (definitely not solid)

가 , Meyerding A grade I 10 , grade II가 4 1.29(1~2), B grade I 8 , grade II가 2 1.22(1~2) . (p>0.05).

3. Taillard A 22.76%(10~48), 10.89%(6.5~25), 10.97%(6.5~27), 11.08%(6.5~27.2) , B 20.28%(10~33.3), 12.96%(6.4~22), 13.21%(6.3~22), 13.31%(6.4~22) (Table 3), A 11.81% , 0.19% , , B 7.32%, 0.11% , B 0.35%, 0.10% (Table 4). , (p>0.05).

1. A 7 , 7 42 (19~67), 26 (12~30) . B 3 , 7 , 44 (19~64), 23 (12~30) (P>0.05).

2. Lenke A 4 8 , 5 6 9 , B 5 , A Lenke A 3.6 (2~5) , B 4 7 , 5 3 . B A 6 , B 4 , 3.8 (3~7) . (p>0.05) (Table 5).

1.35 (1~2), B 1.40 (1~2) .

Table 3. Loss of Reduction

	Preop.	Postop.	Fusion	Final F/U	Reduction Rate	Reduction Loss
A	22.76%	10.89%	10.97%	11.08%	11.81%	0.19%
B	20.28%	12.96%	13.21%	13.31%	7.32%	0.35%
P-value					0.241	0.281

Table 4. The diagraph shows the grade of spondylolisthesis in group A and group B respectively at preoperative, postoperative, complete bone union and last follow up. There is minimal change from postoperative to final follow up.

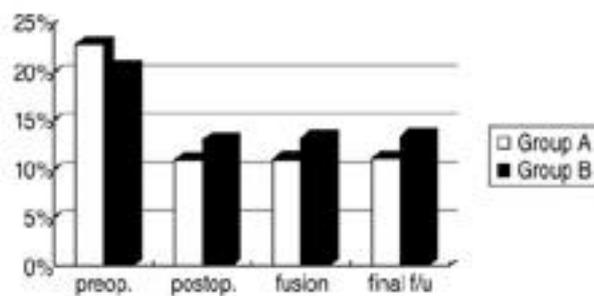




Fig. 1. (A) Preoperative lateral radiograph of 49-year-old female shows grade II isthmic spondylolisthesis at L5-S1 level. (B) Postoperative lateral radiograph shows the reduction of spondylolisthesis (48% - 20%). (C) Radiographs at 24 months follow up examination shows maintenance of reduction with solid bony union.

Table 5. Radiologic Finding

	Lenke A	Lenke B	Lenke C	Lenke D
A	9	5	0	0
B	6	4	0	0
Total	15	9	0	0

Table 6. Clinical Results

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
A	7	5	2	0
B	5	3	2	0
Total	12	8	4	0

5. 가

Katz

가 A 7 , 5 , 2

, B 5 , 3 , 2

가

($p > 0.05$)(Table 6).

. Bradford¹²⁾

, Peek¹³⁾

가

가

86

(Fig. 1)

가

14)

가

1-3)

15)

Laus

16), McAfee 120

cage
 17). Sears¹⁸⁾, Grob¹⁹⁾ Na²⁰⁾
 cage, Spruit
 21)
 Shin¹⁾, Suk²⁾, Choy³⁾ titanium mesh cage
 가 (Fig. 2)
 가
 가
 4-6,8)
 가
 가
 chetti Meyerding 3
 22,23). Mar-

²⁴⁾, Dehoux
²⁵⁾
 가
 가
 가
 3
 A 3
²⁶⁾
 가
 가
 가

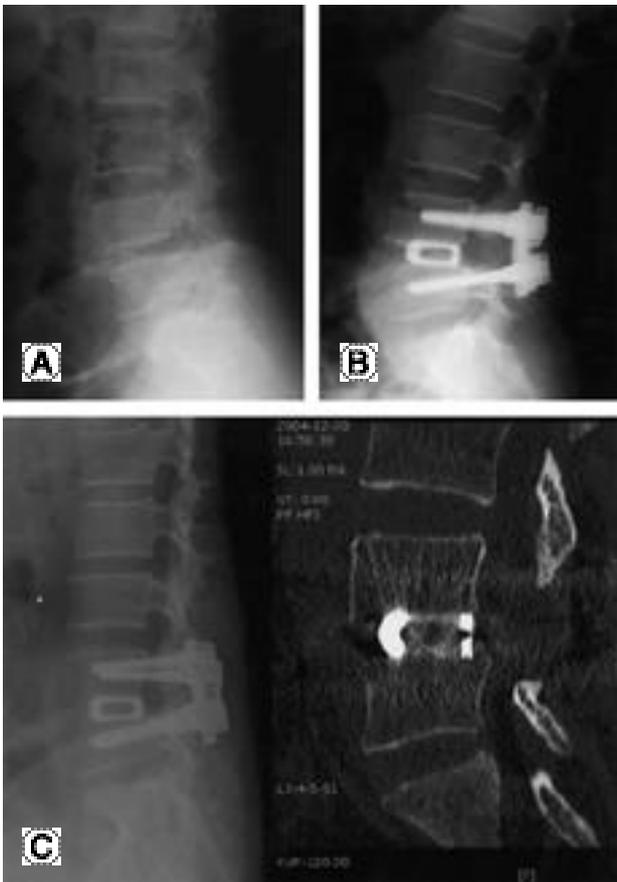


Fig. 2. (A) Preoperative lateral radiographs of 46-year-old female shows grade II isthmic spondylolisthesis at L4-5 level. (B) Postoperative lateral radiographs shows the reduction of spondylolisthesis (33% → 13%). (C) Radiograph and CT scan at 26 months follow up examination shows maintenance of reduction with solid bony union.

- 1) **Shin BJ, Min KD, Kwon H, et al:** Surgical result of isthmic spondylolisthesis -comparison of posterolateral fusion vs. PLIF, *J Kor Spine Surg* 1996; 3:61-68.
- 2) **Suk SI, Lee CK, Kim WJ, Kim HG:** Adding posterior lumbar interbody fusion to pedicle screw fixation and posterolateral fusion after decompression in spondylolytic spondylolisthesis, *J Kor Orthop Assoc* 1995; 30:1638-1646.
- 3) **Choy WS, Kim WJ, Kim KH, et al:** The results of the posterior lumbar interbody fusion using titanium mesh cage for spondylolisthesis, *J Kor Spine Surg* 1999; 6:129-134.
- 4) **Freeman BJ, Licina P, Mehdian SH:** posterior lumbar interbody fusion combined with instrumented posterolateral fusion: 5-year results in 60 patients, *Eur Spine J* 2000; 9:42-46.
- 5) **Csecsei GI, Klekner AP, Dobai J, Lajgut A, Sikula J:**

- Posterior interbody fusion using laminectomy bone and transpedicular screw fixation in the treatment of lumbar spondylolisthesis, Surg Neurol* 2000; 53:2-6.
- 6) **James C.H. Goh, Hee-kit Wong, Ashvin Thambyah, Chun-Sing Yu:** *Influence of PLIF cage size on lumbar spine stability, Spine* 2000; 25:35-39.
 - 7) **Jeon TS, Moon SH, Kim NH, Park KB, Lee HM:** *Comparison between posterior lumbar interbody fusion with pedicle screw fixation and posterolateral fusion with pedicle screw fixation in spondylytic spondylolisthesis in adults, J Kor Spine Surg* 2003; 10:104-112.
 - 8) **Laurson M, Thomsen K, Eiskjaer SP, Hansen ES, Bunger CE:** *Functional outcome after partial reduction and 360 degree fusion in grade III-V spondylolisthesis in adolescent and adult patient. J Spinal Disord* 1999; 12:300-306.
 - 9) **Madan S, Boeree NR:** *Outcome of posterior lumbar interbody fusion versus posterolateral fusion for spondylytic spondylolisthesis, Spine* 2002; 15:27:1536-1542.
 - 10) **Merending HW:** *Spondylolisthesis: surgical treatment and results. J Bone Joint Surg* 1943; 25:65-77.
 - 11) **Taillard WF:** *Etiology of spondylolisthesis, Clin Orthop* 1976; 117:30-39.
 - 12) **Bradford DS:** *Closed reduction of spondylolisthesis. An experience in 22 patients, Spine* 1988; 13:580-587.
 - 13) **Peek RD, Wiltse LL, Reynolds JB, Thomas JC, Guyer DW, Widell EH:** *In situ arthrodesis without decompression for grade-III or IV isthmic spondylolisthesis in adults who have severe sciatica, J Bone Joint Surg* 1989; 71A:62-68.
 - 14) **Cho JL, Yoon WK, Park YS, Choi KJ, Han JH:** *Redisplacement after operative reduction of spondylolisthesis - comparison between pedicle screw system and Luque ring system-, J Kor Orthop Assoc* 1997; 32:1162-2333.
 - 15) **Cho JL, Park YS, Han JH, Lee CH, Roh WI:** *The changes of adjacent segments after spinal fusion - Follow-up more than three years after spinal fusion -, J Kor Spine Surg* 1998; 5:239-246.
 - 16) **Laus M, Tigani D, Pignatti G, et al:** *Posterolateral spinal fusion: a study of 123 cases with a long-term follow-up, Chir Organi Mov* 1994; 79(1):69-79.
 - 17) **McAfee PC, DeVine JG, Chaput CD, et al:** *The indications for interbody fusion cages in the treatment of spondylolisthesis: analysis of 120 cases, Spine* 15;30(6 Suppl):S60-65.
 - 18) **Sears W:** *Posterior lumbar interbody fusion for degenerative spondylolisthesis: restoration of sagittal balance using insert-and-rotate interbody spacers, Spine* 2005; 5(2):170-179.
 - 19) **Grob D, Scheier HJ, Dvorak J, Siegrist H, Rubeli M, Joller R:** *Circumferential fusion of the lumbar and lumbosacral spine, Arch Orthop Trauma Surg* 1991; 111(1):20-25.
 - 20) **Na HY, Jeong YY, Kim WS, Cho HW:** *Surgical treatment of isthmic spondylolisthesis: pedicle screw fixation, posterolateral fusion, and posterior lumbar interbody fusion with cage after wide decompression, J Kor Spine Surg* 2003; 10:1199-1207.
 - 21) **Spruit M, Pavlov PW, Leitao J, De Kleuver M, Anderson PG, Den Boer F:** *Posterior reduction and anterior lumbar interbody fusion in symptomatic low-grade adult isthmic spondylolisthesis: short-term radiological and functional outcome, Eur Spine J* 2002; 11(5):428-433.
 - 22) **Kim NH, Lee JW:** *Anterior interbody fusion versus posterolateral fusion with transpedicular fixation for isthmic spondylolisthesis in adults. A comparison of clinical results, Spine* 1999 15;24(8):812-816.
 - 23) **La Rosa G, Conti A, Cacciola F, et al:** *Pedicle screw fixation for isthmic spondylolisthesis: does posterior lumbar interbody fusion improve outcome over posterolateral fusion?, J Neurosurg* 2003; Sep;99(2 Suppl):143-150.
 - 24) **Marchetti PG, Binazzi R, Briccoli A, et al:** *The surgical treatment of spondylolisthesis, Chir Organi Mov* 1994; 79:85-91.
 - 25) **Dehoux E, Fourati E, Madi K, Reddy B, Segal P:** *Posterolateral versus interbody fusion in isthmic spondylolisthesis: functional results in 52 cases with a minimum follow-up of 6 years, Acta Orthop Belg* 2004; 70(6):578-582.
 - 26) **Arand M, Wilke HJ, Schultheiss M, et al:** *Comparative stability of the "Internal Fixator" and the "Universal Spine System" and the effect of crosslinking transfixating systems. A biomechanical in vitro study, Biomed Tech* 2000; 45(11):311-316.

