

Masterclasses

M5.4**Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery****14:30 Room 221****Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery: Training***Kwan K**Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

The essence of Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery (MISS) involves a smaller access to the spine and the neural elements, but the principles and the technical aspects of the surgery are the same as open surgery. Hence the indications and goals of surgery should not be compromised. MISS should merely be an alternative access method to accomplish the same surgical outcome.

Spine surgeons trained in open surgery have a thorough understanding of the three dimensional anatomy of the spine, which helps to reconstruct the mental image when the access and view are reduced. Nonetheless, spine surgeons need to undergo specific training for each type of access and assess what needs to be achieved. This involves self study, overseas training with experienced operators, cadaveric training, with auditing of our own results. In some specific circumstances, overseas trainer maybe invited to supervise and assist the initial procedure. The learning curve of each technique must be understood, and more simple cases are selected at the beginning.

Currently the application of MISS includes pedicle screw insertion, decompression of the neural elements, lateral access interbody fusion, and various injection techniques.