



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Effect of Experience on Incidental Durotomy in Primary Lumbar Decompression using Cumulative Control Chart (CUSUM)

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Introduction

Lumbar decompression is one of the most commonly performed spine operations. Yet various complications still occur. Among all complications, incidental durotomy is relatively common. There was no study dedicated on the effect of surgeon's experience on occurrence of incidental durotomy in primary lumbar decompression.

Objectives

The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of surgeon's experience on the rate of dural tear in posterior lumbar decompression using cumulative sum control charts (CUSUM).

Methodology

From 2002 to 2014, 187 posterior lumbar decompressions were performed by 2 spine surgeons. The occurrence of incidental durotomy was identified and the data was interpreted with CUSUM charts.

Result

We were able to demonstrate decreased occurrence of incidental durotomy with more experience. Both surgeons attained expected level at case 32 and after 3 years of training.