Indications For Lateral Approach

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Disclosures

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Background

Lateral lumbar interbody fusion is a well described treatment option for numerous conditions of the lumbar spine

- Higher fusion rate (larger interbody)
- Indirect decompression
- Minimally invasive
- Good for obese patients
- BMP-2 use on label
- Adjacent segment disease at L3-4
- Reduction of spondylolisthesis (current study utilizing expandable cages)





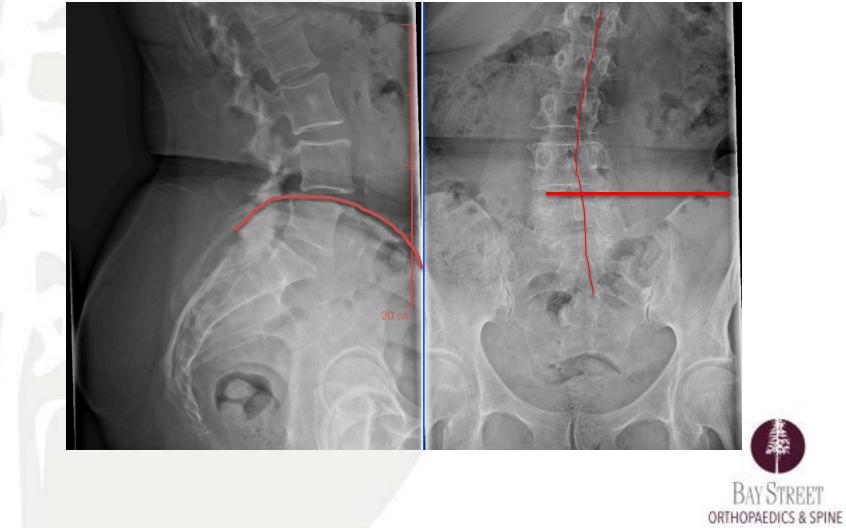
Patient Selection: Basics

Patient factors relevant to lateral surgery:

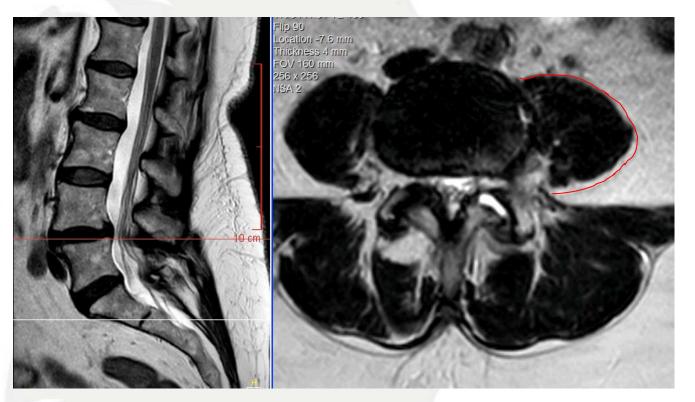
- Obesity?
- Prior surgery such as laminotomies or adjacent level disease
- Smoker?
- Diabetic?
- Steroids?
- Medical issues?
- Osteoporosis?



Patient Selection: Xrays



Patient Selection: MRI

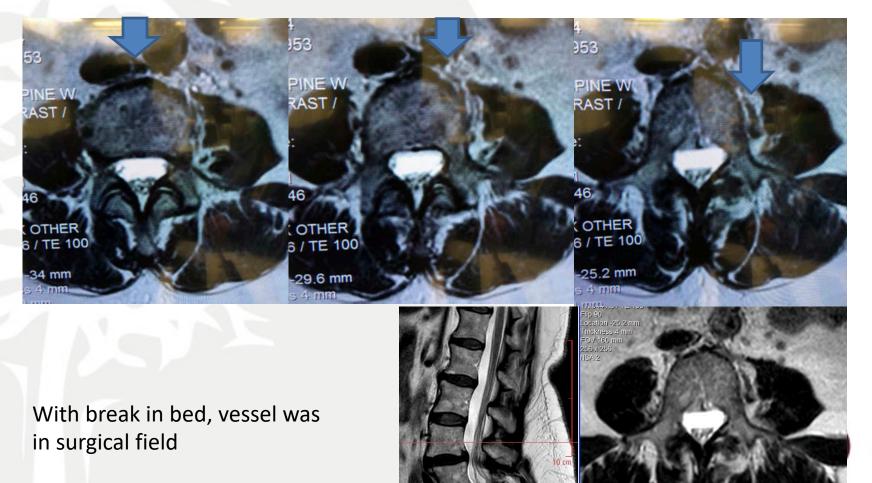




Patient Selection: MRI



Patient Selection: MRI



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Iliac Crest

Strategies:

- Positioning- break in bed location
- Approach- expose superior aspect
- Angled instruments- for some
- Crest resection with Kerrison- bone wax and repair over it to minimize pain
- Crest osteotomy with fixation for repair





Psoas

Strategies:

- Minimize disruption
- Stim with probe if concern for nerve location
- Sweep anterior to posterior with dilator



Preoperative plan

Plan ahead:

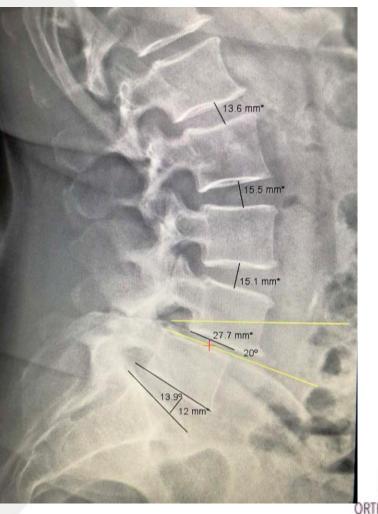
- Approach: Right versus left
- Implant sizing: Cage sizing, lordosis, height
- Retractor depth estimate
- Idea on iliac crest potential to add time and complexity
- Location of vessels
- Location of nerves
- Idea on where to position centering wire based on goals of surgery and patient anatomy



Pre-operative planning

Xrays:

- Disc heights
- Lordosis
- Cage position
- Goals
 - Indirect decompression
 - Locdosis
 - Staged?

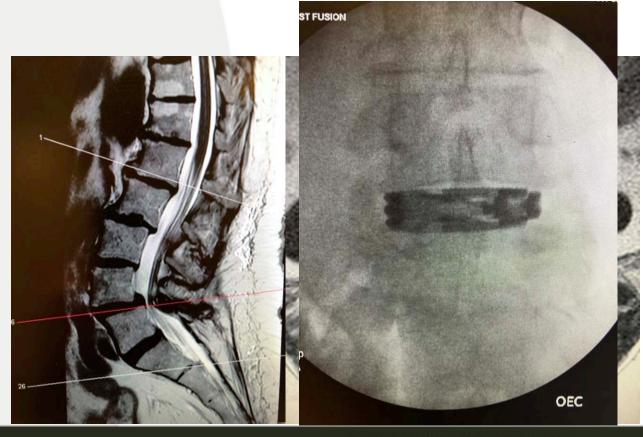




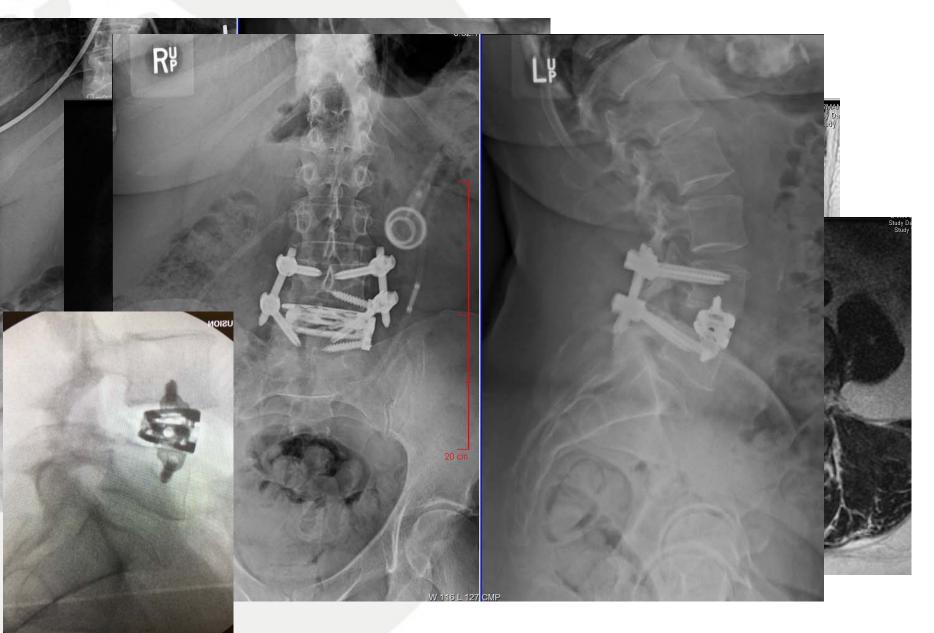
Pre-operative planning

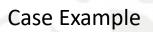
MRI:

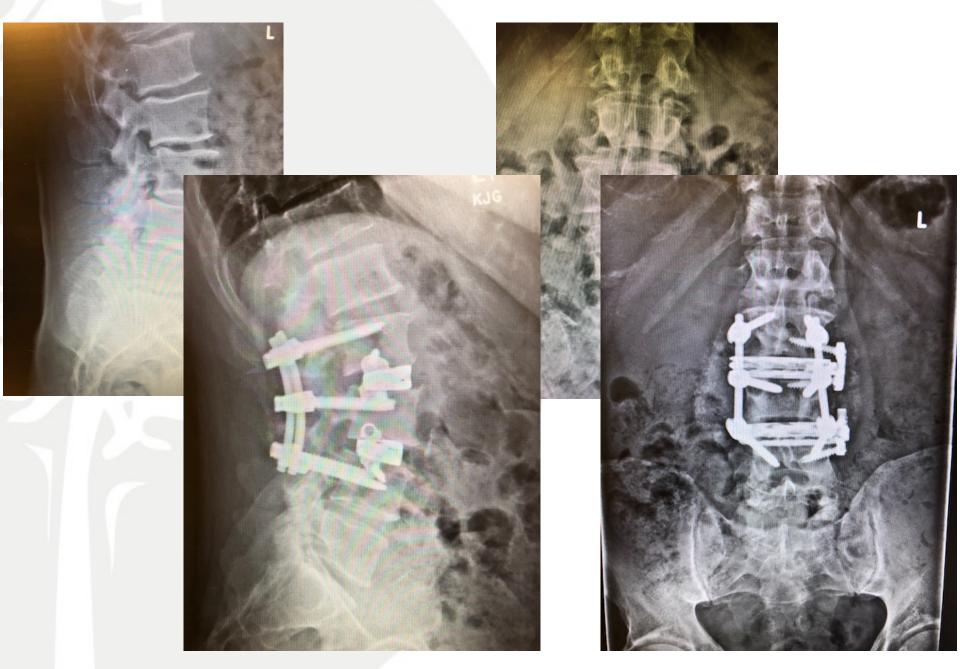
- Cage size
- Vessels
- Nerves
- Psoas



Case Example







Case Example



Discussion

Lateral surgery provides powerful correction of local disc height and lordosis, a high fusion rate and is minimally invasive.

Very often avoid open posterior decompression and utilize percutaneous screws which leads to faster recovery, improved patient outcomes, and potentially outpatient surgery.





Thank You!

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