



Goal-Directed Fluid Therapy Based on Pulse-Pressure Variation Compared with Standard Fluid Therapy in Patients Undergoing Complex Spine Surgery: A Randomized Controlled Trial

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Study Design: Prospective, randomized, controlled study.

Purpose: To determine whether the use of goal-directed fluid therapy (GDT) guided by pulse-pressure variation (PPV) and fluid management protocol can reduce intraoperative hypotension, blood transfusion requirements, and postoperative complications in adults undergoing complex spine surgery.

Overview of Literature: Complex spine surgeries involve a significant risk of blood loss and intraoperative hypotension. Previous studies showed that GDT reduces intraoperative hypotension and postoperative complications in these surgery types; however, limited information exists about GDT guided by PPV.

Methods: Sixty adults (18–70 years) patients undergoing complex spine surgeries at Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand were enrolled. Patients were allocated to two groups (30 patients in each) using computer-generated randomization. Intraoperative fluid and vasopressor were administered via either GDT or standard care. The GDT algorithm used PPV and fluid protocol as the primary tool to guide hemodynamic management. The incidences and episodes of perioperative hypotension were measured as the outcomes.

Results: Fifty-seven patients were analyzed (three patients in the GDT group were excluded). The baseline characteristics and surgical procedures of the two groups did not differ significantly. The prevalence of intraoperative hypotension was 80.0% for the control group and 66.7% for the GDT group ($p=0.25$). Two episodes (1–3) of intraoperative hypotension occurred in the control group, and one episode (0–3) occurred in the GDT group; the difference was not significantly different ($p=0.57$). The intraoperative blood transfusion requirements and postoperative complications were similar in both the groups. In the subgroup analysis, patients with intraoperative hypotension exhibited a higher incidence of postoperative bowel dysfunction.

Conclusions: PPV-guided GDT and fluid protocol, as compared with standard practice, did not show significant advantages with respect to intraoperative hypotension, blood transfusion, or postoperative complications in patients undergoing complex spine surgery in the prone position.

Keywords: Goal-directed therapy; Hypotension; Laminectomy; Prone; Fluid therapy

Received Jan 20, 2021; Revised Jan 20, 2021; Accepted Feb 7, 2021

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Introduction

The performance of major spinal surgeries increased significantly during the previous 2 decades because they provide good functional outcomes [1]. Complex spinal surgeries are associated with prolonged procedures, prone position, and blood loss, all of which can contribute to adverse postoperative events [2]. Hypotension and fluctuations in blood pressure during spinal surgery in the prone position under anesthesia are common [3]. Previous studies showed that the main cause of hypotension in the prone position during lumbar spinal surgery is an inadequate preload, leading to a decrease in the stroke volume (SV) and cardiac index [4]. Furthermore, decreased pulmonary compliance and a rigid supportive spine frame contribute to a decrease in the SV [5]. Elevated risks of end-organ injury owing to intraoperative hypotension have been reported [6]. A fall in splanchnic perfusion results in neurological injury and an intramucosal acidosis of the gut [7], leading to a cascade of events that impair the postoperative neurological outcome as well as gastrointestinal and renal functions. Careful management of fluid and blood pressure during surgery may improve patient outcomes.

The first goal-directed therapy (GDT) was employed by Shoemaker et al. [8] in 1988; they used a pulmonary artery catheter to guide oxygen delivery perioperatively. However, for subsequent GDT studies, less invasive monitoring systems have been used to measure intraoperative SV and cardiac output to guide fluid therapy [9]. The results of randomized, controlled trials and meta-analyses suggest that intraoperative GDT is associated with improved outcomes and reductions in hospital stays for patients undergoing cardiac, major abdominal, and major orthopedic surgeries [10,11]. Next, pulse-pressure variation (PPV) is based on heart-lung interactions and cyclic changes in the SV induced by mechanical ventilation in the closed-chest condition [12]. PPV monitoring has been used for predicting fluid responsiveness. This method is not as invasive as other methods and is not operator dependent; further, it has been validated for use in patients in the prone position [13].

We hypothesized that PPV monitoring coupled with a treatment algorithm could decrease the incidences of intraoperative hypotension, intraoperative blood transfusion, and perioperative complications in patients undergoing elective complex spine surgery in the prone position

as compared to standard hemodynamic management.

Materials and Methods

1. Patients

This study was designed as a single center, prospective, randomized trial with two parallel treatment groups receiving either GDT protocols (GDT group) or standard care (control group). It was conducted at Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand from April 2017 to December 2018 after approval was obtained from the Siriraj Ethical Committee (Si826/2016); the project was registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT03164811). Sixty patients were randomized into the two study arms. The randomization was performed in blocks of four using computer-generated numbers. The sequence numbers and groups were placed inside concealed envelopes that were opened after obtaining written consent. The researchers enrolled the participants but did not take part in patient care and assessment.

We enrolled all patients who met the inclusion criteria and were willing to participate, as indicated by the provision of written, informed consent. We included low-risk patients (aged 18–70 years, with an American Society of Anesthesiologists [ASA] physical status of 1–3) undergoing elective thoracolumbar spine surgery with instrumentation (mostly pedicle screws and rods), a laminectomy involving three or more levels without instrumentation, or scoliosis surgery. The experience of the spine surgeons varied from 5 to 25 years. The surgeons were blinded. The exclusion criteria comprised renal impairment, severe cardiovascular disease, a body mass index (BMI) of >30 kg/m², complete cord lesion, hemodynamic instability, and respiratory system compliance (Crs) of <30 mL/cmH₂O. We excluded patients with cardiac arrhythmia, obesity, or a Crs of <30 mL/cmH₂O because the PPV cut-off points would be different for those groups (Supplement 1).

Patients in the GDT group received a preoperative oral carbohydrate drink (400 mL of 12.5% glucose solution) between 6 PM and bedtime on the day before the surgery and another 200 mL on the morning of the day of the surgery. Basal crystalloid infusion was started at 100 mL/hr at 7 AM on the day of the surgery. For the patients in the control group, our standard fasting protocol was followed (nothing by mouth after midnight), and standard fluid management was applied in the morning. All the patients

received general anesthesia with intravenous induction, with propofol (1.5–2 mg/kg), fentanyl (1–2 mcg/kg), and cisatracurium 1 (0.12–0.15 mg/kg) being administered to facilitate orotracheal intubation. The anesthesia was maintained with a balanced inhalational technique with desflurane and nitrous oxide in oxygen to keep 1.0–1.5 end-tidal minimum alveolar concentration and infusions of fentanyl 0.5–1.0 mcg/kg/hr and cisatracurium 0.06–0.1 mg/kg/hr. An arterial line was inserted into the radial artery for invasive arterial pressure and PPV by using a Nihon Kohden-BSM 3562 monitor (Nihon Kohden, Shinjuku, Japan) in all the patients in the GDT group and in some patients in the control group (based on the in-charge anesthesiologists). Patients in both the groups were ventilated in a volume-controlled mode using a tidal volume of 8–10 mL/kg, positive end expiratory pressure of 5 cmH₂O, and with a 10% inspiratory pause to obtain the plateau pressure in order to calculate the Crs in the supine and prone positions. Then, the ventilation rate was adjusted to maintain an end-tidal carbon dioxide pressure 30–40 mm Hg. A urinary catheter was placed for urinary output monitoring. All the patients received intravenous dexamethasone (10 mg) and ondansetron (8 mg) to prevent postoperative nausea vomiting. In order to avoid any interference with intraoperative hypotension and the postoperative renal function, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, magnesium, and lidocaine were not used. Intraoperative maintenance of mean arterial pressure at $\pm 25\%$ from baseline was requested for all the patients. This was achieved as per the attending anesthesiologists in the control group and the GDT protocol in the GDT group (Fig. 1, Supplement 1). Once they fulfilled the standard clinical criteria, the patients were extubated either in the operating room or postoperatively.

2. Outcome measures

Demographic data (sex, age, BMI, ASA status, underlying diseases, and baseline preoperative investigations) and intraoperative data (number of spinal surgical levels, duration of the surgery, fluid management, intraoperative hypotensive episodes, and the use of vasopressors) were collected for all the patients. Hematocrit and serum creatinine levels were rechecked on the morning of the first postoperative day and, if necessary, were subsequently repeatedly checked. Patients were monitored daily for signs of postoperative complications for 14 days or until their

hospital discharge. The primary outcome was the incidence of hypotensive episodes during complex spine surgery, defined as systolic blood pressure <90 mm Hg or <25% of the baseline value or need for vasopressor treatment [14]. The secondary outcomes were the incidences of blood transfusions and other complications from inappropriate intraoperative fluid management (Supplement 1).

We conducted sensitivity analyses on (1) the incidences of hypotensive episodes after induction and after positioning and (2) subgroup of patients who underwent more invasive surgery. With an exploratory intent, postoperative complications were compared between patients who experienced intraoperative hypotension and those who did not experience intraoperative hypotension.

3. Statistical analyses

The sample size calculation was based on the research of Picard et al. [15]. They found that the incidences of hypotensive episodes were 7 ± 2 for the control group and 3 ± 1.5 for the GDT group. Using a two independent means for-

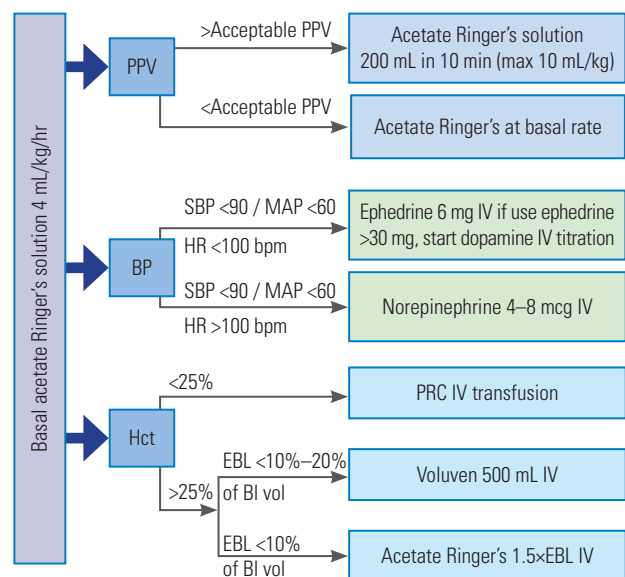


Fig. 1. Goal-directed fluid therapy protocol. Acceptable PPV=13% change in static lung compliance after prone position; hypotension: MAP decrease more than 25% of preoperative MAP value. Preoperative: the day before surgery (400 mL of 12.5% carbohydrate drinks after 6 PM until the bedtime; on the day of surgery (200 mL of glucose solution per oral; acetate Ringer's solution IV rate 100 mL/hr since 7 AM); intraoperative: give acetate Ringer's solution 200 mL IV within 10 minutes (can repeat up to 3 times or 10 mL/kg) to keep PPV <13% before turn to prone position. PPV, pulse-pressure variation; BP, blood pressure; Hct, hematocrit; SBP, systolic blood pressure; MAP, mean arterial pressure; HR, heart rate; EBL, estimated blood loss; BI vol, blood volume; IV, intravenous; PRC, packed red cells.

mula for the calculation, with a two-sided type 1 error of 0.05 and a power of 90%, two equally sized groups of five patients were needed to detect this difference. Decreasing the incidence of blood transfusions was a secondary outcome. In a study by Bacchin et al. [16], patients received 2 (1–2) units of transfused red blood cells. Assuming a clinically relevant 1-unit reduction in red cell transfusions for the GDT group, with a two-sided type 1 error of 0.05 and a power of 95%, two equally sized groups of 27 patients were needed to detect this difference. Thus, we enrolled 30 patients in each group to compensate for 10% drop out during the study period. Continuous variables with normal and abnormal distribution were compared using Student *t*-test or Mann-Whitney *U*-test, and the results are presented as mean±standard deviation or median and interquartile range (IQR) values, as appropriate. The quality of the discrete variables was compared using Fisher's exact test or chi-square test, and they are presented as numbers and percentages. A value of $p < 0.05$ was considered significant. We used statistical software package PASW SPSS Statistics for Windows ver. 18.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

Results

During the 20-month study period, 170 patients were eligible. However, 110 were excluded; 42 were excluded because they were aged ≥ 70 years, 33 because they presented with an estimated glomerular filtration rate of < 60 mL/min, 21 owing to a history of severe cardiovascular disease, 12 because they presented with a BMI of > 30 kg/m², and two because they presented with a complete cord lesion. Sixty patients fulfilled the inclusion criteria (Fig. 2); thus, 30 patients were randomized into each of the two study arms. However, three patients in the GDT group were subsequently withdrawn from the study because of a protocol violation in two cases and a change to the lateral position during the operation in the third case.

No differences were found in the patients' demographic characteristics in terms of age, sex, BMI, ASA physical status, and comorbidities. The preoperative investigations, including the complete blood counts and creatinine levels, were normal and comparable for the two groups (Table 1). Eighty percent of the patients in the control group experienced hypotension compared with 66.6% of those in the GDT group ($p = 0.25$). Most hypotensive episodes occurred after the induction of anesthesia. Sensitivity analysis showed that 16 (53.3%) patients in the control group and

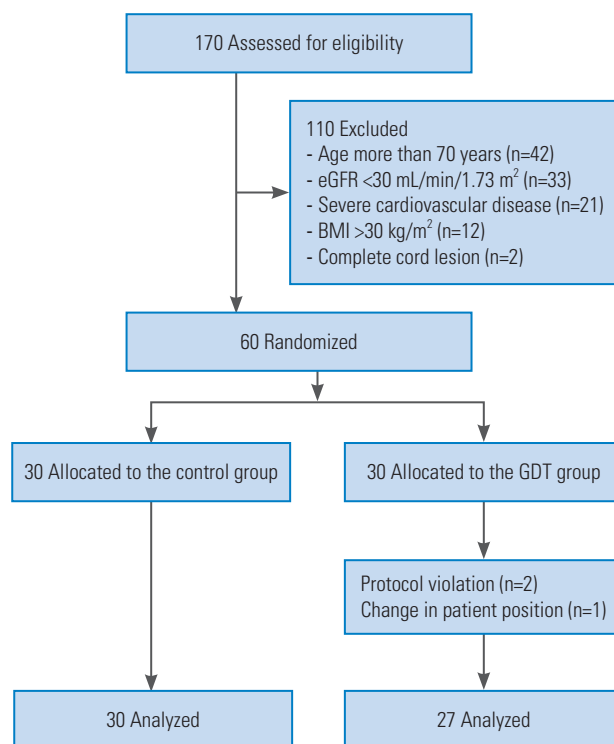


Fig. 2. Consort diagram of the study. eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; BMI, body mass index; GDT, goal-directed therapy.

Table 1. Patient demographic data

Characteristic	Control (n=30)	GDT (n=27)	<i>p</i> -value
Age (yr)	60.80±7.78	56.19±13.02	0.117
Sex			0.153
Male	11	15	
Female	19	12	
Height (cm)	159.17±9.07	162.41±8.91	0.167
Weight (kg)	60.11±9.08	65.20±9.96	0.049
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	23.76±3.23	24.72±3.38	0.276
ASA classification 1/2/3	10/18/2	10/16/1	0.657
Comorbidity			
Diabetes	6 (20.0)	3 (11.1)	0.476
Hypertension	12 (40.0)	12 (44.4)	0.734
Dyslipidemia	7 (23.3)	8 (29.6)	0.590
Preoperative MAP (mm Hg)	89±12	94±10	0.131
Creatinine (mg/dL)	0.77±0.17	0.82±0.23	0.357
eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m ²)	88.57±14.48	92.16±18.28	0.413
Hematocrit (%)	39.03±4.19	40.22±4.75	0.322

Values are presented as mean±standard deviation, number, or number (%). GDT, goal-directed therapy; ASA, American Society of Anesthesiologists; MAP, mean arterial blood pressure; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate.

Table 2. Intraoperative data

Characteristic	Control (n=30)	GDT (n=27)	p-value
Type of surgery			0.896
Laminectomy	1 (3.3)	1 (3.7)	
1–3 level instrumentation	15 (50.0)	11 (40.7)	
≥4 level instrumentation	11 (36.7)	11 (40.7)	
Laminectomy with tumor removal	3 (10.0)	4 (14.8)	
Duration of surgery (min)	236.67±96.54	220.37±73.22	0.480
Blood loss (mL)	575 (250–900)	500 (325–800)	0.892
Intraoperative fluid			
Crystalloid (mL)	1,900 (1,200–2,800)	2,000 (1,425–2,700)	0.904
Colloid (mL)	0 (0–0)	0 (0–500)	0.107
Packed red cells (unit)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–0)	0.452
Hypotension			
Incidence	24 (80.0)	18 (66.6)	0.250
Episodes	2 (1–3)	1 (0–3)	0.568
After induction	16 (53.3)	9 (33.3)	0.129
After prone	7 (23.3)	4 (14.8)	0.416
Medical treatment	14 (46.7)	15 (55.6)	0.503
Ephedrine (mg)	0 (0–12)	6 (0–9)	0.642
Urine output (mL/kg/hr)	1.25±0.76	1.38±0.99	0.574
Intraoperative oliguric episode	0 (0–1)	0 (0–1)	0.424

Values are presented as number (%), mean±standard deviation, or median (interquartile range).
GDT, goal-directed therapy.

9 (33.3%) in the GDT experienced post-induction hypotension ($p=0.13$); further, 7 (23.3%) patients in the control group and 4 (14.8%) in the GDT group experienced post-positioning hypotension ($p=0.42$).

The operations consisted of (1) multilevel laminectomies, (2) laminectomies involving 1–3 levels of instrumentation, (3) laminectomies involving more than three levels of instrumentation, and (4) laminectomies with tumor removal. The four types were equally distributed between the two groups. Thirty-three patients from both the groups exhibited significant blood loss (>500 mL). The estimated blood loss and blood transfusion amount of the two groups did not differ (Table 2). The median values of the intraoperative red blood cell transfusions were zero for both the groups, and no differences were found in their intraoperative fluid administration and urine outputs.

On postoperative day 1, the hematocrit level was $32.0\% \pm 4.9\%$ for the control group and $29.9\% \pm 4.6\%$ for the GDT group ($p=0.08$). Although the postoperative complication rate and total length of stay were reduced for the GDT group, the differences were not significant (Table

Table 3. Postoperative data

Outcome measure	Control (n=30)	GDT (n=27)	p-value
Length of hospital stay (day)	9.5 (8.0–15.0)	9.0 (7.5–10.5)	0.223
Unplanned intensive care unit admission	2 (6.7)	0	0.492
Renal complications	18 (60)	14 (51.9)	0.536
Oliguria (hr)	2 (0–4)	1 (0–2)	0.263
Creatinine rising (times)	0.96 (0.86–1.07)	0.96 (0.92–1.05)	0.719
Respiratory complication	2 (6.7)	0	0.492
Cardiovascular complication			0.708
Episodes of hypotension	1.5 (1.0–4.0)	1.0 (0.0–3.0)	
Cardiac arrhythmia	0	0	
Suspected myocardial infarction	0	0	
Neurological complication			0.490
Stroke	0	0	
Postoperative delirium	2 (6.7)	0	
New onset of weakness or numbness	0	0	
Bowel ileus	23 (76.7)	16 (61.5)	0.219

Values are presented as median (interquartile range) or number (%).
GDT, goal-directed therapy.

Table 4. Outcome of intraoperative hypotension

Outcome measure	Intraoperative hypotension		<i>p</i> -value
	Yes (n=42)	No (n=15)	
Length of hospital stay (day)	9.0 (8.0–12.0)	9 (7.0–10.0)	0.131
Renal complications	24 (57.1)	8 (53.3)	0.517
Postoperative hypotension	5 (11.9)	0	0.310
Postoperative delirium	2 (4.8)	0	0.539
Stool pass (day)	4 (3.0–5.0)	2 (1.0–3.0)	0.005*

Values are presented as median (interquartile range) or number (%). Renal complications were defined as oliguria (a urine output of <0.5 mL/kg/hr×12 hours) or rising creatinine×2 compared with baseline.

**p*<0.05; statistically significant.

3). Two patients in the control group continued with mechanical ventilation in the intensive care unit (ICU); one exhibited experienced massive blood loss (6,000 mL), while the other received a prolonged operation (>6 hours). In the subgroup analysis including more invasive surgical procedure (laminectomies involving more than three levels of instrumentation and laminectomies with tumor removal), the results remain robust, except for the postoperative bowel ileus that GDT provided promising result with marginally significant effect (*p*=0.058) (Supplement 1). From our exploratory analysis, the patients who experienced hypotension seemed to present with more postoperative complications and delayed recovery of bowel function as compared to those without hypotension (*p*=0.005) (Table 4).

Discussion

The perioperative maintenance of an adequate intravascular volume status is important for the achievement of intraoperative hemodynamic stability and optimal postoperative outcomes. Both, hypovolemia and hypervolemia decrease tissue perfusion and may result in organ failure [17,18]. GDT is a method of optimizing perioperative fluid administration and reducing the incidence of postoperative organ dysfunction. With regard to spine surgery, Picard et al. [15] conducted a randomized, controlled trial using an esophageal Doppler as a hemodynamic guidance during surgery. Their study showed that the durations and episodes of hypotension were greater in the standard care group than those in the GDT group. In contrast to the findings of the Picard study, the observed effect of the application of the PPV-guided GDT used in our protocol

did not significantly reduce the incidences of intraoperative hypotension, despite similar clinical characteristics to those in the Picard study. We reported only 1–2 episodes of hypotension per patient, compared with 3–7 episodes in the Picard study. There could have been several factors that contributed to the differences; for instance, we used desflurane to maintain anesthesia, while Picard et al. [15] used propofol target-controlled infusion. Several studies reported fewer episodes of intraoperative hypotension of inhalation anesthesia with desflurane or sevoflurane than that with propofol [19,20]. This study reported a blood loss of about 500 mL; however, our intraoperative transfusion rate was very low (median, 0; IQR, 0–1). We used the transfusion guideline obtained from the clinical evidences and guidelines for red blood cell transfusions [14]. These guidelines exhibit a common theme as follows: avoid unnecessary transfusions. In comparison, Bacchin et al. [16] retrospectively reviewed the outcomes in 23 patients who received spine surgery and whose fluid administration had been managed with the GDT protocol as compared to that in 23 matched controls who received a liberal fluid therapy. They found that the application of GDT based on SV variation can lead to a significant reduction in blood loss (median [IQR] from 250 [0–500] mL to 0 [0–250] mL) with a reduction of 1 unit of transfused red blood cells, better postoperative respiratory performance, a shorter ICU stay, and a faster normalization of bowel function [16]. However, in this retrospective study, no criteria were present for blood transfusions leading to over-transfusion despite limited blood loss. Few studies reported on goal-directed fluid therapy in spine surgery. Our study results did not reveal any significant benefits of the GDT protocol in comparison to that of standard treatment. Many factors might contribute to this finding. First, the patients in the present study received the same amount of fluid whether they were or were not subjected to PPV monitoring. During the previous decade, the concept of perioperative fluid therapy changed drastically, resulting in the overall intraoperative fluid administration decreasing to the minimum necessary amount [21]. This concept may have helped to lower the incidence of complications and morbidity and may have reduced the marginal benefits of the alternative GDT strategy. Moreover, the many surgical devices and techniques that have been introduced to this field of surgery in recent years contributed toward a reduction in morbidity and mortality [22,23]. Finally, the GDT protocol may be more useful in the intraoperative care of high-

risk patients. Thus far, no definitive data exist to support this belief. Further trials are necessary before a definite conclusion can be made.

Many subsequent trials of the GDT protocol revealed results different from those of the original trial. The GDT for early sepsis patients is a good example. The first randomized controlled trial of GDT for early sepsis cases was performed by Rivers et al. [24] in 2001. More than a decade after their trial, three large multicenter trials investigated the validity of early GDT for managing early sepsis. The North American Protocol-Based Care for Early Septic Shock trial, the UK Protocolised Management in Sepsis (ProMISe) trial, and the Australasian Resuscitation in Sepsis Evaluation trial could not demonstrate a significant survival benefit for protocol-based early GDT over usual care at 90 days [25-27]. A meta-analysis of intraoperative goal-directed fluid therapy for elective major abdominal surgery also indicated that the benefits of GDT may not be as clear as had been suggested historically owing to the changes in the overall perioperative management of patients over time [28]. Based on an exploratory analysis, hypotensive patients experienced delayed bowel function. A decrease in the splanchnic blood flow during a hypotensive episode may lead to mucosal hypoxia and acidosis [7]. Experimental studies showed that the gastrointestinal mucosal pH decreases with reduction in blood flow [29]. In a clinical setting, postoperative ileus after surgical procedures may contribute to a delay in enteral nutrition, causing patient discomfort and prolonging hospitalization [30]. Certain limitations of this study are present. First, owing to the small number of episodes of hypotension than that reported previously, our sample size might have been too small to demonstrate differences between the two groups. Furthermore, our study only included low-risk patients; the benefits of GDT for those with a higher risk and severe comorbidities need to be evaluated. Finally, the intervention could not be blinded; however, the risk of bias was minimized by randomization; validated criteria for the primary outcome that was not subjective to observer bias; and the postoperative caregivers being unaware of the study assignment.

Conclusions

As compared to standard practice, PPV-guided GDT did not show significant advantages with respect to intraoperative hypotension, red blood cell transfusion, or postop-

erative complications during complex spine surgery.

Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Mr. Suthipol Udompenthurak for statistical analysis and Miss Nichapat Thongkaew and Miss Chusana Rungjindamai for coordinating this study.

Funding

This research project was supported by the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University (grant no., R016031008).

Author Contributions

KW, SW, and MR conceptualized the paper. KW and NH corrected all the preoperative and intraoperative data. SW and ST followed up the patients and corrected postoperative outcomes. NH analyzed the data, with input from KW, SW, and MR. KW wrote the initial draft with all authors providing critical feedback and edits to subsequent revisions. All authors approved the final draft of the manuscript. MR is the guarantor. The corresponding author attests that all listed authors meet authorship criteria and that no others meeting the criteria have been omitted.

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary materials can be available from <https://doi.org/10.31616/asj.2020.0597>. Supplement 1. Supplementary materials for the manuscript.

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