



Letter to the Editor: Is Older Age a Contraindication for Single-Level Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion?

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Dear Editor,

We have read the article “Is older age a contraindication for single-level transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion?” by Patel et al. [1] with great interest and appreciate the authors for their informative work. This article was extensively discussed in our departmental journal club meeting recently and few doubts were raised which seek solution and redressal before establishing safety and utility of transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion (TLIF) amongst the elderly. In this study, the authors have tried to address the doubts regarding the utility of TLIF amongst the elderly by comparing their outcome to a younger population. They have taken Wang and Bohlman’s criteria for functional outcome apart from Visual Analog Scale and Oswestry Disability Index. Firstly, as we understand, any surgery when performed in the elderly population is not only subjected to local complications but also to systemic complications. This becomes significant in the elderly who often have multiple comorbidities which pose a higher risk to operative intervention [2]. In this study authors have mentioned comorbidities in quantitative terms (single versus more than two comorbidities); however, no qualitative analysis in terms of type and severity of comorbidities has been performed.

Secondly, the authors have not taken other coexisting causes of low backache into consideration including osteoporosis [3], which might affect the long-term outcome, especially when comparing to a younger population. We look forward to acknowledging these doubts before coming to a definitive conclusion.

Conflict of Interest

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

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