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Atkinson, Ross A., Stephenson, John, Jones, Anna and Ousey, Karen

An assessment of key risk factors for surgical site infection in patients undergoing surgery for spinal metastases

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1 **Title:** An assessment of key risk factors for surgical site infection in patients undergoing surgery for  
2 spinal metastases

3 **Running Title:** Risk factors for SSI following spinal metastatic tumour surgery  
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10 Ross A. Atkinson, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>

11 John Stephenson, BSc, MSc (Eng), MPhil, CMath MIMA, PhD<sup>3</sup>

12 Anna Jones, BSc (Hons)<sup>1</sup>

13 Karen J. Ousey, PhD, RGN, FHEA<sup>3</sup>

14

15

16

17 <sup>1</sup>Greater Manchester Neurosciences Centre, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Salford  
18 Royal NHS Foundation Trust, Stott Lane, Salford, M6 8HD, UK

19 <sup>2</sup>Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, The  
20 University of Manchester, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, Stott Lane, Salford, M6 8HD, UK

21 <sup>3</sup>School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield, HD1  
22 3DH, UK

23

24 **Corresponding Author**

25 Dr Ross A. Atkinson, Honorary Research Associate

26 Institute of Inflammation and Repair, Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre, University of  
27 Manchester

28 Email: ross.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk

1 **Abstract**

2 *Objectives*

3 This study aimed to determine the rate of surgical site infection (SSI) in patients undergoing surgery  
4 for spinal metastases, and identify key risk factors for SSI among this patient group.

5 *Methods*

6 A retrospective case note review was undertaken in 152 adult patients being treated at a single  
7 specialist centre for spinal surgery.

8 *Results*

9 Overall SSI rate was 11.2% per patients (9.7% per procedure). An increase in the risk of SSI was  
10 observed when surgery involved a greater number of vertebral levels (odds ratio 1.26, P=0.019)  
11 when controlling for primary spinal region. Controlling for the number of spinal levels, the odds of  
12 SSI increased by a factor of 5.6 (P=0.103) when the primary surgical region was thoracic, as opposed  
13 to cervical or lumbar.

14 *Conclusions*

15 In conclusion, surgery associated with multiple vertebral levels for treatment of spinal metastases,  
16 particularly of the thoracic spine, is associated with increased risk of SSI.

17

1 **Highlights**

2 • Multi-level metastatic spinal tumour surgery is associated with greater risk of SSI.

3 • The odds of SSI are increased with surgery at the thoracic level.

4

5 **Key words**

6 Metastases; Spine; Surgical site infection; Vertebrae; Wound.

7

1 **Introduction**

2 Spinal metastases are common in cancer patients and surgical treatment is the most effective way to  
3 relieve symptoms [1]. Symptoms include spinal and radicular pain, weakness, difficulty in walking,  
4 sensory loss and bladder or bowel dysfunction associated with spinal metastatic spinal cord  
5 compression (MSCC). MSCC occurs in 10-20% of those with bony spinal disease [2], equating to  
6 approximately 4000 cases per year in England and Wales according to the National Institute for  
7 Health and Care Excellence (NICE) [3]. It is important that patients with symptomatic MSCC are  
8 treated appropriately in a timely manner to optimise the chance of preventing decline in physical  
9 functioning. The number of patients requiring surgery is likely to rise in coming years [4], due to the  
10 success of many primary cancer therapies which are improving patient survival.

11

12 Surgical site infection (SSI) is a serious potential complication of any type of surgical procedure. SSIs  
13 are estimated to account for approximately 16% of all healthcare-acquired infections [5], with  
14 reported rates varying, according to the type of surgery. Interventions aimed at reducing the rate of  
15 SSIs in general have included: administration of antibiotic prophylaxis; rigorous pre-operative hand  
16 washing by the surgical team; use of specific methods of skin preparation; strict procedures in  
17 theatre, such as the use of sterile gowns and double gloving; use of laminar flow theatres (among  
18 other interventions). Despite this multifaceted approach, SSI rates in certain areas remain  
19 stubbornly high.

20

21 Surgery for metastases of the spine has been shown to be a risk factor for the failure of primary  
22 wound healing in comparison to other types of spinal surgery [6]. However, there are several other  
23 factors within this group which may also contribute significantly to SSI; not least immunosuppression  
24 resulting from the malignant process and pre-operative radio- and chemotherapeutic treatments, as  
25 well as the use of opiate analgesia [7, 8]. Spinal tumour surgery is extensive, and patients are often  
26 malnourished and catabolic [9]. These factors, coupled with the high metabolic demands of wound  
27 healing, and the fact that spinal surgery is often lengthy and involves large surgical incisions, means  
28 that patients undergoing surgery for spinal metastases are affected by a host of factors potentially  
29 contributing to wound breakdown and SSI. This predisposition to wound complications can, in turn,  
30 impact significantly on quality of life for the patient, family and carers. The clear identification of  
31 such factors will lead to advances in clinical practice, in terms of care management and patient  
32 education regarding the ways SSIs occur and how they can be prevented.

33

- 1 This study was therefore undertaken to identify key risk factors contributing to SSIs in this patient
- 2 group.
- 3

1 **Methods**

2 This study was approved by the Greater Manchester North Research Ethics Committee (reference  
3 12/NW/0269).

4  
5 *Participant Selection*

6 Adult patients (aged  $\geq 18$  years) who had undergone surgical treatment for spinal metastatic tumours  
7 at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust (SRFT) between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012  
8 were included in this study. Data collection occurred as part of the local SSI surveillance programme  
9 and so participants Patients were not approached to give consent, as per the ethical approval, ~~due to~~  
10 ~~the retrospective nature of the study~~. The Clinical Audit department generated a list of potentially  
11 eligible patients. This list was filtered using the primary IDC10 code C79.5 (secondary malignant  
12 neoplasm of bone and bone marrow) and OPCS4 codes beginning with V (i.e. those which  
13 correspond to bones and joints of the skull and spine). In order that only appropriate patients were  
14 included, patient notes were initially screened prior to data collection to confirm that patients had in  
15 fact undergone surgery for metastatic tumours (i.e. not patients who had undergone conservative  
16 treatment or those undergoing treatment for primary tumours). In cases where incorrect coding had  
17 been documented [10], patients were removed from the screening list and no data were collected.  
18 Clinical nursing staff from the Spinal Unit were asked to review the patient list generated by the  
19 Clinical Audit department and cross check against their own documented records, where possible, to  
20 ensure a complete list of patients was identified. Of primary interest in confirming metastatic spinal  
21 tumour diagnosis were histopathology reports, where available. The opinion of a Consultant  
22 Neuropathologist was sought where ambiguity regarding diagnosis arose (i.e. primary versus  
23 metastatic tumour). In the event that histopathological diagnosis was not available, evidence of  
24 metastatic spinal tumour diagnosis was sought from clinical correspondence or other clinical notes  
25 held in patients' records.

26  
27 *Definition of SSI*

28 The presence or absence of an SSI (superficial or deep) was the primary outcome measure for the  
29 study, as defined by the criteria set out by Public Health England [5], which is largely based on the  
30 work of Horan et al. [11]. Regular observation of the wound was carried out by ward staff according  
31 to standard practice whilst patients were resident in the hospital. Patients were discharged with  
32 information about signs and symptoms suggestive of SSI (e.g. pain or tenderness, localised swelling,  
33 redness, heat and discharge) and asked to contact the ward directly should they experience any of  
34 these or have additional concerns about their wound. Such patients were then reviewed promptly in

1 clinic. For purposes of this study, patient documentation was reviewed ~~SSIs were classified~~ by the  
2 SSI surveillance nurse for the neurosurgery department, who confirmed diagnosis of infection as per  
3 the standard routine for the reporting of SSIs through the SSI Surveillance Service.

#### 4 5 *Data Collection*

6 Data were collected from existing patient case notes and were anonymised prior to analysis; no  
7 patient or relative contact was required for additional data collection.

8  
9  
10 Data were collected on the following demographic, lifestyle, health and procedural characteristics:  
11 patient age; sex; height; weight; body mass index (BMI); primary spinal region (cervical, lumbar or  
12 thoracic; categorised according to the location of the majority of the vertebrae operated on);  
13 direction of surgical approach (anterior, posterior or combined anterior-posterior); whether or not  
14 the patient was on the emergency operation list; type of admission ward (specialised spinal unit or  
15 other ward); survival data (date of death or status as of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013); site of primary tumour;  
16 Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST) score; Waterlow score; whether or not the patient  
17 self-reported as consuming excessive alcohol; whether or not the patient was a current smoker;  
18 whether or not patients had undergone pre-operative radiotherapy to the spine (within 24 months);  
19 whether or not the patient had received pre-operative chemotherapy (within 6 months); whether or  
20 not the patient had received pre-operative treatment with dexamethasone (in addition to those  
21 administered at the time of surgery); American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) grade; whether  
22 or not the patient had low levels of pre-operative serum albumin (< 35 g/L), serum protein (< 62 g/L)  
23 or lymphocytes (< 1.5<sup>9</sup>/L) pre-operatively, or increased levels of serum C-reactive protein (CRP)  
24 (< 10 mg/L); control of intra-operative blood glucose ( $\leq$  11 nmol/L in recovery); maintenance of  
25 normothermia (core temperature of  $\geq$  36°C in recovery); administration of appropriate antibiotics  
26 (according to local guidelines within 60 minutes prior to surgical start); whether or not the incision  
27 closure method included the use of a braided suture (Vicryl or any other type); type of immediate  
28 post-operative wound dressing (recommended Opsite PostOp Visible or any other type); the location  
29 to which the patient was discharged (home or other care setting); length of surgical incision; number  
30 of spinal levels operated on; duration between interval and operation; duration of operation; type of  
31 theatre (laminar flow or non-laminar flow); number of staff members listed as being present in  
32 theatre.

#### 33 34 *Statistical Analysis*



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Following exploratory analyses to verify that the effect of clustering of procedures within patients was negligible, a series of binary logistic regression analyses was conducted on the data under the assumption of a single level (*procedure*-level) data structure. Initially uncontrolled models, each including a single factor or covariate, were derived as a screening process to identify potentially important predictors of infection. Not all variables analysed descriptively were included in this analysis: those which did not discriminate adequately between cases with and without an SSI, or those for which little clinical evidence of a link with the outcome measure existed, were excluded. Survival data were also excluded from the analysis due to the lack of a temporal criterion for causality. Any factors and covariates exhibiting significant or substantive association with the outcome measure in uncontrolled models were then carried forward for inclusion in a multiple logistic regression model. Key numerical variables showing substantive association with the outcome measure were subject to further analysis by calculation of the area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve in order to determine the ability of these variables to discriminate between cases of infection and non-infection. All descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were undertaken using IBM SPSS for Windows, Version 20.0 (Chicago, IL).

1 **Results**

2 A total of 152 patients (77 females and 75 males; mean age 60.3 years (SD 12.6 years) were  
3 included. Three patients underwent multiple procedures. Breast (28.3%), lung (20.4%) and prostate  
4 (12.5%) were the most common primary tumours, with other types of primary (as well as those  
5 unknown primaries) making up the remainder (38.8%). Metastases occurred predominantly at the  
6 thoracic spine in most cases (70.4%), with the lumbar and cervical regions also being predominant in  
7 16.5% and 13.1% of cases, respectively. A full descriptive summary of sample characteristics is given  
8 in Table 1 (categorical factors) and Table 2 (covariates). Frequencies and percentages, and means  
9 and standard deviations are based on total number of procedures ( $n=176$ ) except where starred,  
10 which are based on total number of patients ( $n=152$ ).

11

12

[INSERT TABLES 1 AND 2 HERE]

13

14 *SSI Rate*

15 A total of 17 procedures (in 17 individual patients) resulted in a SSI (11.2% of patients; 9.7% of  
16 procedures). Of two patients affected by SSI who underwent more than one surgical procedure,  
17 both infections occurred as a result of the first operation. There were 14 superficial and 3 deep SSIs.

18

19 *Risk Factor Analysis*

20 Uncontrolled binary logistic regression analysis found occurrence of an SSI to be significantly  
21 associated with number of spinal levels involved in surgical procedure. Some additional factors,  
22 notably whether or not the patient was undergoing a procedure associated with thoracic vertebrae  
23 and whether or not the patient was on the emergency list, were also shown to exhibit some  
24 substantive significance with the outcome measure (Table 3).

25

26

[INSERT TABLE 3 HERE]

27

1 Variables corresponding to number of spinal levels, primary spinal region and emergency list status  
2 were carried forward for inclusion in a multiple logistic regression analysis. Using a backward  
3 elimination modelling strategy, an analysis conducted on the full data set retained the variables  
4 corresponding to number of spinal levels and primary spinal region (thoracic or non-thoracic) in the  
5 model. Number of spinal levels was found to be significantly associated with SSI occurrence in a  
6 multiple model; whereas primary spinal region (thoracic or non-thoracic) was found to be  
7 substantively but not significantly associated with SSI occurrence in a multiple model. The variable  
8 corresponding to whether or not a patient was placed on the emergency list was not retained in the  
9 model (Table 4).

10 [INSERT TABLE 4 HERE]

11

12

13

1 **Discussion**

2 The rate of SSI following surgery for spinal metastatic tumours in the present study is within the 10  
3 to 20% range reported in the existing literature [12-14]. This is considerably higher than the overall  
4 2.8% previously reported by Olsen et al. when considering laminectomy and fusion procedures.

5 While patients undergoing spinal surgery for cancer are understood to be at increased risk of SSI [6],  
6 few previous studies have been undertaken to determine whether any additional key risk factors  
7 exist within this specific population [12]. Results of the present study suggest that patients  
8 undergoing surgery on multiple vertebral levels are at greater risk of developing SSI. Controlling for  
9 primary spinal region, the odds of an SSI increase by approximately 26% for each additional spinal  
10 level involved in the surgical procedure. This is perhaps due to multiple level surgery requiring larger  
11 incisions, and generally being longer in duration, both of which provide greater opportunity for the  
12 entry of pathogens. While incision length itself was included as a variable, it is likely that no  
13 association between this and risk of SSI was found because wound length is generally documented  
14 after being estimated by treating staff observing the wound, rather than being objectively measured.  
15 Previous studies have suggested that surgery performed at more than three vertebral levels is  
16 associated with greater infection risk [6, 15], though these analyses were not confined only to  
17 patients undergoing tumour and surgery. Although primary spinal region (thoracic or non-thoracic)  
18 was not found to be significantly associated with SSI, when controlling for number of spinal levels  
19 involved in the surgical procedure, the odds of an SSI increase by a factor of approximately 5.6 (at  
20 best estimate) when the primary surgical region is the thoracic, as opposed to the cervical or lumbar  
21 regions.

22 These results indicate that patients whose operation may involve surgery on several tumours along  
23 the length of the spine are at greater risk of SSI. It is difficult to infer whether this can be alleviated  
24 by adaptations in surgical intervention. In cases where there are multiple operable tumours, it is  
25 perhaps conceivable that a move towards more minimally invasive techniques could limit incision  
26 length and blood loss, and may even expedite discharge.

27 Protein depletion and the peri-operative administration of corticosteroids have previously been  
28 shown to be risk factors for the development of SSI after spinal tumour surgery [12]. Despite no such  
29 association being observed in the present cohort, these factors contribute to immunosuppression  
30 and so are likely to have some effect on the ability of the host to defend against pathogens  
31 responsible for SSI.

32

1 Avoidance or reduction of SSI is essential in patients undergoing surgery for spinal tumours, and as  
2 such clinical teams must initiate preventative strategies in the pre-operative period. Given that SSI  
3 rates are considerably higher in this patient group, psychological support for this highly undesirable  
4 complication would be beneficial pre-operatively, with tissue viability teams offering advice of  
5 precautionary steps patients could take, as well as facilitating the use of devices such as negative  
6 pressure wound therapy (NPWT) [16] that may reduce the risk of SSI. Furthermore, appropriate use  
7 and management of prophylactic antibiotics requires consideration and discussion with the patient;  
8 NICE (2013) maintain that antibiotic prophylaxis should be given to patients before clean surgery  
9 involving the placement of a prosthesis or implant [17]. The importance of working as an inter-  
10 professional team cannot be over-emphasized in the pre-operative period; these teams should  
11 include: surgeons, anaesthetists, dieticians, ward nurses, theatre staff, tissue viability specialists,  
12 pain teams, infection control, social workers, care in the community teams and palliative care if  
13 necessary. Effective and clear discharge planning would be required to guarantee timely discharge  
14 with all community services *in situ* where necessary.

15

## 16 **Limitations**

17 It is acknowledged that this study is limited in its design. Data collected as part of routine care over a  
18 number of years will inevitably vary in its quality and completeness. Accurate documentation in  
19 patient case notes should be a priority, especially with respect to the administration of drugs, to  
20 facilitate the delivery of best care, and to ensure errors can be addressed and rectified where  
21 possible in a timely manner. Inaccurate recording and reporting of data, especially with respect to  
22 treatment compliance, may have legal and financial implications [18]. In addition, a more complete,  
23 accurate data base provides greater opportunity for carrying out high quality audit and research.  
24 Nevertheless, this study is based on the largest case series of spinal metastatic tumour patients with  
25 regards to SSI and despite these limitations, the retrospective analysis of existing data in this way  
26 provides a snapshot of real-life treatment and documentation in a modern health service, and as  
27 such is useful in the development of future proposals for research.

28

## 29 **Conclusions**

30 Surgery on multiple vertebral levels for metastatic spinal tumours significantly increases the chance  
31 of SSI, with patients undergoing operations on the thoracic region of the spine being more at risk.  
32 Clinical teams should focus on identifying such high risk patients and ensure that patients are

- 1 afforded the best levels of care. Optimisation of patient fitness prior to surgery should also remain a
- 2 priority wherever possible.
- 3

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3 in determining patient eligibility for this study and Mr Brad Williamson for his assistance with this  
4 project. Foundation Urgo is gratefully acknowledged for funding support through the competitive  
5 2011 Foundation Urgo Award.

6

1 **Tables**

2 **TABLE 1: Descriptive characteristics of sample: categorical factors.**

Categorical Factor	Frequency (valid %)		
	SSI cases	Non-SSI cases	Full sample
Gender			
Male	10 (62.5%)	65 (47.4%)	75 (49.0%)*
Female	6 (37.5%)	72 (53.6%)	78 (51.0%)*
Primary spinal region			
Cervical	0 (0.0%)	23 (14.5%)	23 (13.1%)
Thoracic	16 (94.1%)	108 (67.9%)	124 (70.5%)
Lumbar	1 (5.9%)	28 (17.6%)	29 (16.5%)
Direction of approach			
Anterior	1 (7.7%)	15 (9.2%)	16 (9.1%)
Posterior	12 (92.3%)	148 (90.8%)	160 (90.9%)
Emergency list			
Yes	14 (82.4%)	93 (58.5%)	107 (60.8%)
No	3 (17.6%)	66 (41.5%)	69 (39.2%)
Ward type			
Specialist spinal ward	14 (82.4%)	99 (62.3%)	113 (64.2%)
Other	3 (17.6%)	60 (37.7%)	63 (35.8%)
Patient survival			
Yes	3 (17.6%)	52 (38.5%)	55 (36.2%)*
No	14 (82.4%)	83 (61.5%)	97 (63.8%)*
Primary cancerous organ			
Breast	4 (23.5%)	39 (29.1%)	43 (28.4%)*
Lung	5 (29.4%)	26 (19.4%)	31 (20.5%)*
Prostate	3 (17.6%)	16 (11.9%)	19 (12.6%)*
Other/unknown	5 (29.4%)	53 (39.6%)	58 (38.4%)*
MUST score			
0	14 (100.0%)	142 (95.3%)	156 (95.7%)
1	0 (0.0%)	6 (4.0%)	6 (3.7%)
2	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.7%)	1 (0.6%)
Pre-operative radiotherapy received			
Yes	1 (5.9%)	15 (9.3%)	16 (9.1%)
No/unknown	16 (94.1%)	147 (90.7%)	160 (90.9%)
Pre-operative chemotherapy received			
Yes	1 (5.9%)	1 (0.6%)	2 (1.1%)
No/unknown	16 (94.1%)	158 (99.4%)	174 (98.9%)
Prescription of dexamethasone			
Yes	12 (70.6%)	96 (60.4%)	108 (61.3%)
No/unknown	5 (29.4%)	63 (39.6%)	68 (39.4%)
Excess self-reported alcohol consumption			
Yes	1 (5.9%)	8 (5.9%)	9 (5.9%)*
No	16 (94.1%)	127 (94.1%)	143 (94.1%)*
Smoker			
Yes	1 (6.3%)	21 (15.4%)	22 (14.5%)*
No	15 (93.7%)	115 (84.6%)	130 (85.5%)*
Dexamethasone administered			
Yes	11 (68.8%)	97 (60.6%)	108 (61.4%)
No	5 (31.2%)	63 (39.4%)	68 (38.6%)
Antibiotic according to local guideline			
Yes	13 (76.5%)	107 (79.3%)	120 (78.9%)*
No	4 (23.5%)	28 (20.7%)	32 (21.1%)*
Glucose controlled within 11 nmol/L			
Yes	17 (100.0%)	135 (100.0%)	152 (100.0%)*
No	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)*



*Risk factors for SSI following spinal metastatic tumour surgery*

No			
Normothermia maintained	16 (94.1%)	122 (90.4%)	138 (90.7%)*
Yes	1 (5.9%)	13 (9.6%)	14 (9.3%)*
No			
ASA score	12 (75.0%)	117 (73.1%)	129 (73.3%)
High	4 (25.0%)	43 (26.9%)	47 (26.7%)
Low			
Diabetic	0 (0.0%)	8 (5.9%)	8 (5.3%)*
Yes	17 (100.0%)	128 (94.1%)	145 (94.7%)*
No			
Dressing used	2 (12.5%)	41 (25.6%)	43 (24.4%)
Opsite	14 (87.5%)	119 (74.4%)	133 (75.6%)
Other			
Discharge	8 (47.1%)	101 (63.5%)	109 (61.9%)
Home	9 (52.9%)	58 (36.5%)	67 (38.1%)
Care setting/other			

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1 Table 2: Descriptive characteristics of sample: covariates

Covariate	Mean (SD)		
	SSI cases	Non-SSI cases	Full sample
Age	63.1 (11.1)*	60.3 (13.1)*	60.6 (12.9)*
Length of stay	31.3 (15.0)*	19.2 (20.1)*	20.3 (18.9)*
Height (m)	1.75 (0.07)*	1.68 (0.11)*	1.68 (0.11)*
Weight (kg)	85.1 (10.3)*	74.4 (15.0)*	74.9 (14.9)*
BMI (kgm <sup>-2</sup> )	28.1 (5.1)*	26.2 (4.7)*	26.4 (4.7)*
Waterlow score	8.8 (4.3)	8.4 (4.4)	8.42 (4.3)
Albumin level (g/litre)	32.4 (16.9)	28.8 (17.6)	29.2 (17.4)
Protein level (g/litre)	65.7 (7.3)	64.3 (8.5)	64.5 (8.4)
Lymphocyte level (x10 <sup>9</sup> )	1.3 (1.0)	1.5 (1.5)	1.4 (1.4)
Pre-operative CRP level (mg/L)	19.1 (24.6)	42.1 (65.2)	38.8 (61.5)
Survival time after operation (days) <sup>1</sup>	198.7 (213.9)*	195.1 (200.0)*	195.6 (200.7)*
Age at death (years) <sup>1</sup>	64.4 (11.7)*	62.4 (14.0)*	62.7 (13.7)*
Wound length (cm)	15.3 (10.7)	13.9 (13.6)	14.1 (13.3)
Number of spinal levels	7.2 (2.0)	5.6 (2.7)	5.7 (2.7)
Interval between admission and operation (days)	3.2 (3.4)	4.6 (5.3)	4.4 (5.1)
Duration of operation (hours)	4.2 (1.3)	4.0 (1.5)	4.0 (1.5)
Number of staff listed as present in operating theatre	8.1 (0.9)	8.0 (1.4)	8.0 (1.4)

2

1 Table 3: Statistical significance, odds ratios and associated confidence intervals: uncontrolled logistic  
 2 regression models

Factor/covariate	p-value	Odds ratio	95% CI for odds ratio
Gender	0.364	0.63	(0.23, 1.72)
Age	0.263	1.03	(0.98, 1.07)
Primary spinal region = thoracic	0.053	7.56	(0.98, 58.5)
Emergency list	0.068	3.31	(0.92, 12.0)
Waterlow score	0.390	1.05	(0.94, 1.19)
BMI	0.715	1.04	(0.86, 1.24)
Excessive alcohol intake	0.867	0.84	(0.10, 6.90)
Smoker	0.813	0.83	(0.18, 3.88)
Dexamethasone administration	0.431	1.55	(0.52, 4.62)
Antibiotic prescription regime	0.981	0.99	(0.30, 3.20)
ASA score	0.756	1.21	(0.37, 3.90)
Albumin level	0.429	1.01	(0.98, 1.05)
Protein level	0.650	1.02	(0.95, 1.08)
Lymphocyte level	0.632	0.89	(0.54, 1.45)
Pre-operative CRP	0.377	0.99	(0.96, 1.01)
Use of Opsite wound dressing	0.216	0.38	(0.08, 1.85)
Wound length	0.723	1.01	(0.97, 1.05)
Number of spinal levels in surgery	0.006	1.30	(1.08, 1.57)
Interval between admission and operation	0.250	0.93	(0.81, 1.06)
Duration of operation	0.816	1.04	(0.76, 1.42)
Number of staff present in theatre	0.755	1.06	(0.74, 1.53)

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1 Table 4: Statistical significance, odds ratios and associated confidence intervals: multiple logistic regression  
2 model

Factor/covariate	p-value	Odds ratio	95% CI for odds ratio
Number of spinal levels	0.019	1.26	(1.04, 1.54)
Primary spinal region			
Non-thoracic (reference)			
Thoracic	0.103	5.59	(0.71, 44.3)

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