Classification system would help spinal deformity care

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Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

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(HealthDay)—The management of adult spinal deformity (ASD) and selection of optimal fusion levels is incompletely defined, according to a review article published in the April issue of *The Spine Journal*.

Benjamin Blondel, M.D., from New York University in New York City, and colleagues conducted a comprehensive literature review to update current knowledge pertaining to the optimal fusion levels in the surgical treatment of ASD.

The researchers found that the management of ASD and optimal fusion levels were incompletely defined, despite the fact that numerous studies have been published. Benefits and risks were identified for all

approaches. Detailed analysis and preoperative planning were confirmed as necessary to obtain realignment objectives and good outcomes.

"Because of an increasing prevalence, ASD is emerging as a challenging health care issue of the 21st century. Management of ASD patients and selection of fusion levels remain controversial," the authors write. "The development of a widely accepted classification system will help to share knowledge and improve our ability to treat these complex clinical situations."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to Nemaris.

More information: Abstract
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