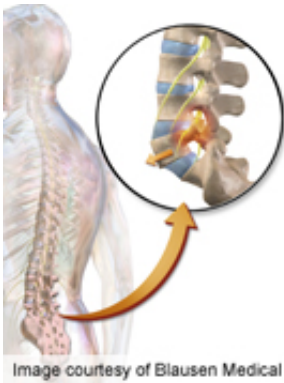


Spine surgery patients meeting strict criteria benefit more

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(HealthDay)—Patients meeting strict criteria benefit more from surgery for degenerative spondylolisthesis (DS), compared to non-operative care, although the treatment effect of surgery is modified by specific patient characteristics, according to a study published in the Oct. 1 issue of *Spine*.

Adam M. Pearson, M.D., from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in Hanover, N.H., and colleagues analyzed data from patients with DS treated with surgery (395 patients) or non-operative care (295 patients). The authors used 55 baseline variables to define subgroups for calculating the time-weighted average treatment effect (TE) for the Oswestry Disability Index during four years (TE = change in Oswestry

Disability Index[surgery] – change in Oswestry Disability Index[non-operative]).

The researchers found that all analyzed subgroups that included at least 50 [patients](#) improved significantly more with surgery than with non-operative treatment (P

"Patients who met strict inclusion criteria improved more with [surgery](#) than with non-operative [treatment](#), regardless of other specific characteristics," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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