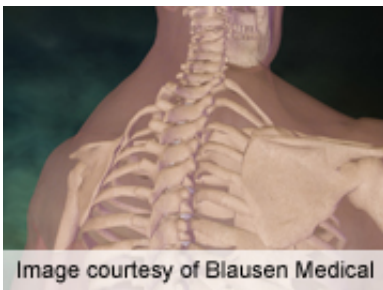


# Routine post-op labs don't often affect cervical discectomy care

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In most cases, no action is taken on the basis of patient's routine postoperative laboratory data after anterior cervical discectomy and fusion, according to a study published in the Sept. 15 issue of *Spine*.

(HealthDay)—In most cases, no action is taken on the basis of patient's routine postoperative laboratory data after anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF), according to a study published in the Sept. 15 issue of *Spine*.

Blaine T. Manning, from Rush Medical College in Chicago, and colleagues characterized the utility of obtaining routine [postoperative](#) laboratory studies after ACDF. Data were collected for 332 patients (mean age,  $51.1 \pm 11.7$  years) who underwent ACDF for degenerative cervical spine disease.

The researchers found that at one year, 98.1 percent of patients

demonstrated radiographical arthrodesis. The postoperative hemoglobin, hematocrit, blood urea nitrogen, sodium, and calcium levels decreased significantly after a one- or two-level ACDF, while there were increases in glucose and chloride levels compared with preoperative levels (P

"These findings suggest that routine postoperative complete blood counts do not change postoperative management after an ACDF unless intraoperative bleeding is noted or the patient carries risk factors for postoperative hemorrhagic anemia," the authors write.

Relevant financial activities outside the submitted work were disclosed: consultancy, board membership, travel expenses, royalties.

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

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