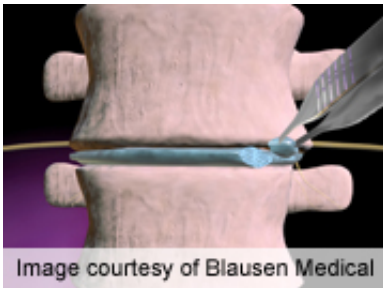


Inpatient admissions predict peri-op risk in lumbar fusion

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(HealthDay)—For patients undergoing posterior lumbar fusion, inpatient admissions in the prior year are associated with increased complication rate, length of stay, and total charges, according to a study published in the Dec. 15 issue of *Spine*.

Ananth Eleswarapu, M.D., from the University of Chicago Medical Center, and colleagues examined [risk factors](#) for increased complication rate, length of stay, and [hospital charges](#) for patients undergoing posterior lumbar fusion. Data were collected from a quality improvement data set for 462 patients.

The researchers found that the only variable significantly associated with increased [complication rate](#) was history of more than one admission in the prior year (odds ratio, 10.56; P

"The number of inpatient admissions in the prior year was found to be a more powerful predictor of perioperative risk after lumbar fusion than metrics evaluated in prior studies, such as age, [body mass index](#), and comorbidities," the authors write.

Relevant financial activities outside the submitted work were disclosed: board membership, consultancy, royalties, stocks, grants, employment.

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