

# Risk of unsatisfactory spine Sx outcome up with workers' comp

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(HealthDay)—Patients undergoing spine surgery with workers' compensation (WC) have increased risk of an unsatisfactory outcome, according to a meta-analysis published in the Dec. 1 issue of *The Spine Journal*.

Thomas Cheriyan, M.D., from the New York Langone Medical Center in New York City, and colleagues examined the correlation of unsatisfactory outcomes on compensation status in [spine surgery patients](#). Data were included from 31 studies (13 prospective, 18 retrospective), with a total of 3,567 patients. The studies compared outcomes between compensated and non-compensated patients in [spine surgery](#).

The researchers found that the overall risk ratio of an unsatisfactory outcome was 2.12 (P

"Workers' compensation patients have a two-fold increased risk of an unsatisfactory outcome compared with non-compensated patients after surgery," the authors write. "This association was consistent when studies were grouped by country or procedure. Compensation status must be considered in all surgical intervention studies."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the medical device and medical technology industries.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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