Open posterolateral fusion

Patient

44-year-old patient suffering from low back pain for 2.5 years. Increasing radicular pain to the right leg for more than one year before surgery.

The patient received physiotherapy and occupational therapy at work. Preoperatively Oswestry 30, SLR 60/80 L5 and S1 pain, instability symptoms. Sensory defect on S1 dermatome on the right side. Lumbar MRI showed an L5/S1 lytic spondylolisthesis of 8 mm, increasing in the functional Xrays. L4/L5 degeneration and a central disc herniation and fluid in the facet joints.

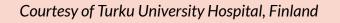
Pre-op MRI T2 (axial L4/L5)



Pre-op MRI T2 (axial L5/S1)



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Pre-op MRI T1 (sagittal)

Pre-op X-ray (lateral)

Operation

Decompressive laminectomy L5, L4–S1 transpedicular fusion. Posterolateral fusion using autograft and Bonalive[®] putty as a bone graft expander.

Clinical outcome

Intraoperative O-arm[®] images showed that the instrumentation was placed correctly. Outpatient clinic visits at 3 months and 12 months post-op. The patient returned to work 4 months post-op. At the one-year follow-up the patient was pain free and had returned to normal activities. Some numbness in right leg. No revisions, excellent outcome.

Courtesy of Turku University Hospital, Finland

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3-day post-op X-ray (AP)



3-month post-op X-ray (AP)

