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ELE 382
Presentation Abstract
ALIF Cages

What is most often the site of injury in the spine is the lumbar segment. The lumbar spine must transmit compressive, bending, and twisting forces generated between the upper and lower body.

Fracture of the lumbar spine can occur whenever forces applied to the lower spinal column exceed the strength and stability of the spinal column unit.

Common injuries resulting in fractures of the lumbar spine include fall from a height; motor vehicle and motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents

Recently, instead of stand alone fusion of the vertebrae, cages have been introduced to the market. More specifically, ALIF (anterior lumbar interbody fusion) cages. In September of 1996, the FDA approved anterior interbody cages for use in the disc space, providing a new technique that allows

the spine to be fused with less morbidity than in the past.

Originally, anterior interbody fusions were all done with a patient's own bone from their iliac crest. Besides the bone graft site pain and problems, there was a high nonunion rate with procedures.

Initially, the threaded cylindrical titanium cages that became popular in the late 1990's helped the success rate of the procedure by providing more firm fixation of the disc space. Currently, there are now several bone graft substitutes that may even eliminate the need for bone graft harvests.

Sources:

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