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Neurologic Injury and Recovery Patterns in the Spinal Fractures by Denis Classification

Nam-Hyun Kim, M.D., Ph.D.^{*}, Moon-Soo Park, M.D., Seong-Hwan Moon, M.D.,
Yong-Ho Kang, M.D.^{*}, Chang-Hun Sung, M.D. and Hwan-Mo Lee, M.D.

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Konyang University College of Medicine, Taejeon, Korea^{}*

– Abstract –

Purpose : To determine whether there was a preponderance of a fracture type associated with early and late neurologic deterioration.

Materials and Methods : The review of all the surgically managed spinal fractures from October 1989 to July 1999 was performed. Of the 83 surgically managed patients, 39 had spinal cord injury. The other 44 patients in this consecutive series had no spinal cord injury.

Charts, operative notes, preoperative and postoperative plain radiographs, computed tomography scans, and follow-up records of all patients were reviewed carefully from the time of surgery until last follow-up assessment. The classification of Denis had been used prospectively for all patients before their surgery to determine the fracture morphology. Frankel Scale and American Spinal Injury Association Spinal Cord Injury Assessment Form(ASIA) were obtained during follow-up evaluation for all patients.

Results : All patients were observed over mean 57.4 months except 1 patient who died of pulmonary thromboembolism 1 week after surgery. In Denis classification, the most common injuries were burst fracture and fracture-dislocation.

The degree of neurologic injury when first seen and at the latest follow-up was different between burst fracture and fracture-dislocation. The extent of neurologic recovery was not different between burst fracture and fracture-dislocation. The fracture-dislocation was common in thoracic spine and the degree of neurologic injury was most severe in thoracic spine. Instead, the burst fracture was more common in lumbar spine and the degree of neurologic injury was relatively mild in lumbar spine.

Conclusions : The severity of initial posttraumatic and the last follow-up neurologic injuries were correlated with the fracture patterns by Denis classification, but the extent of neurologic recovery was not correlated with the fracture patterns by Denis classification. The lumbar fracture, injuring the cauda equina and the sacral nerve roots, shows greater recovery patterns than thoracic spine fractures.

Key words : Spine, Fracture, Denis classification, Neurologic recovery

Address reprint requests to

Hwan-Mo Lee, M.D.

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, College of Medicine, Yonsei University

#134 Shinchon-dong, Sodaemun-ku, Seoul, 120-572, Korea

Tel : 82-2-361-5648, Fax : 82-2-363-1139, E-mail : hwanlee@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr

53 (63.9%), 18 (21.7%), 6 (7.2%), 40 (48.2%)

90% 9) 50% 2. 가

가 4,8,9) Lemons 17) 83 12 4.5

17 (20.7%) 24

, 66 (79.3%) 24

3.

Bravo 4) 83

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. Gertzbein¹³⁾ 49 (59.0%), 21 (25.3%)

가 , 7 (8.4%) - , 6 (7.2%)

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3 가 2 (2.4%), 8 가 2 (2.4%), 9 가 3 (3.6%), 10 가 4 (4.8%), 11 가 6 (7.2%), 12 가 11 (13.3%), 1 가 21 (25.3%), 2 가 21 (25.3%), 3 가 10 (12.0%), 4 가 3 (3.6%)

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(3 10)가 11 , (11 1)가 38 , (2 4)가 34 .

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가 (Table 1).

1. 1989 10 1999 7 4. 83

, , 6 74 35.8 가 83

60 , 가 23 57.4 34 MOSS

Table 1. Fracture localization & fracture type by Denis classification.

Fracture level	Compression Fx.	Burst Fx.	Seat belt injury	Fx. & D/L
T3-T10	0	2	1	8
T11-L1	6	21	4	7
L2-L4	0	26	2	6

One-way ANOVA test, level 5%, sig = 0.000, Fx. fracture, D/L dislocation.

Miami spinal instrumentation system

, 24 AO Schanz spinal system , 10
 Cotrel-Dubousset instrumentation , 6
 Synergy spinal system , 4

5. 16 (20.5%) 3 1 5 3.3 1 1 82 12 57.4 3 , 6 , 9 , 12 1 Louis 19)

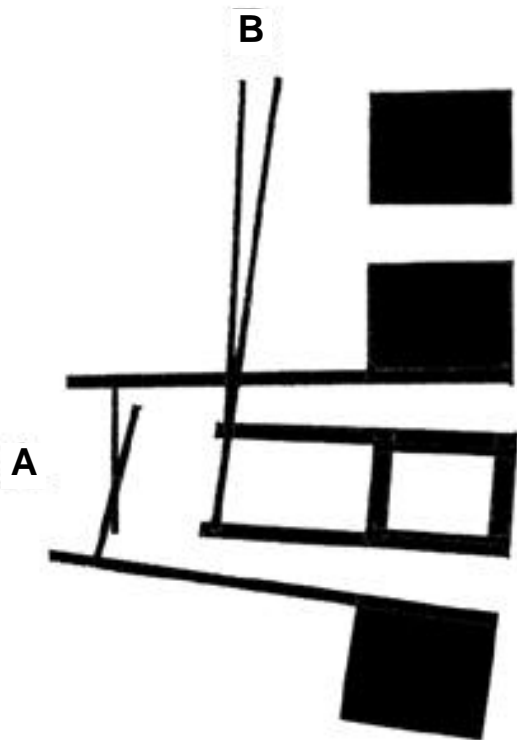


Fig. 1. Regional kyphosis (A) was measured from the inferior endplate of the intact vertebra just above to the superior endplate of the intact vertebra just below the fracture. Vertebral kyphosis (B) was measured form the superior endplate to the inferior endplate of the fractured vertebral body.

7.8 9(-17~52 9) 19.3 9(4~50 9) (Fig. 1).
 44 (53.7%) 25
 (30.5%) , 13 (15.8%)

Frankel 12) American Spinal Injury
 Association Spinal Cord Injury Assessment Form(ASIA
)1) ,
 가 Frankel 44 (53.7%)
 E, 14 (17.1%) D, 9 (11.0%) C, 2
 (2.4%) B, 13 (15.8%) A
 38 ASIA 86.7
 ASIA 69.1
 Denis

(Pearson correlation),
 T (independent-samples T test), T
 (paired-samples T test) (one-
 way ANOVA test)

1. Frankel
 ASIA 가 ASIA
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 (2-tailed Pearson correlation, level 1%).
 Frankel ASIA 가
 (paired-samples T test, level 5%).
 38 14
 (36.8%) 10
 (71.4%) Frankel 가 6
 (42.8%) Frankel C,D E
 25 (Frankel B,C,D) 13
 6 (24.0%) E
 Frankel A 12 24
 38 69.1
 76.1 가
 86.7 89.6 가
 (Table 2).

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A,B,C,D,E

1,2,3,4,5

. Frankel

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(independent-samples T test,

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level 5% ; Table 3).

Frankel

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(one-way ANOVA test, sig 0.044; Table 4).

Table 2. Neurologic compromise according to the fracture types by Denis classification.

Fracture type	Deteriorated patients(%)
Compression fracture	7.2
Burst fracture	59.0
Seat belt injury	8.4
Fracture-dislocation	25.4

Table 3. Neurologic recovery of burst, fractures(burst Fx.) and fracture-dislocation(Fx.-D/L) as measured by the Frankel grading system and the American Spinal Injury Association rating for sensory(ASIA sensory) and motor function(ASIA motor).

		Preop	Final	Recovery of Percentage(%)
Frankel grade*	Burst Fx.	3.3	4.0	31.6%
	Fx.-D/L	1.8	2.3	19.1%
ASIA sensory	Burst Fx.	94.9	98.5	23.6%
	Fx.-D/L	76.6	78.5	7.4%
ASIA motor °	Burst Fx.	77.4	88.4	39.5%
	Fx.-D/L	57.0	63.1	20.3%

Independent-sample T test, significance *= 0.330, =0.175, °=0.199

Fx. fracture, D/L dislocation

$$\text{Recovery of Percentage(\%)} = \frac{\text{Final score} - \text{Preop score}}{\text{Maximal score} - \text{Preop score}} \times 100$$

Table 4. Neurologic recovery of thoracic, thoracolumbar and lumbar fractures as measured by the Frankel grading system and the American Spinal Injury Association rating for sensory(ASIA sensory) and motor function(ASIA motor).

		Preop	Final	Recovery of Percentage(%) [§]
Frankel grade*	T3-T10	1.6	1.8	6.3%
	T11-L1	2.7	3.1	20.0%
	L2-L4	3.4	4.5	47.5%
ASIA sensory	T3-T10	69.1	71.1	16.5%
	T11-L1	87.4	90.5	16.1%
	L2-L4	102.7	104.3	1.5%
ASIA motor °	T3-T10	53.4	59.6	25.6%
	T11-L1	70.4	78.3	22.1%
	L2-L4	82.0	91.3	53.2%

One-way ANOVA test, level 5%, significance *= 0.044, =0.639, °=0.273, §=0.044

$$\text{Recovery of Percentage(\%)} = \frac{\text{Final score} - \text{Preop score}}{\text{Maximal score} - \text{Preop score}} \times 100$$

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2,10,11,15,16), 4,5,11,14,17,20,21)

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 Denis 가 10 dle column) 가
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Denis - Gertzbein¹³⁾

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Frankel ASIA 가

- Denis¹⁰⁾ 70 3.6%

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Carl⁷⁾ Durward¹¹⁾

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