

Interbody fusion rapidly adopted for spondylolisthesis

September 12 2014

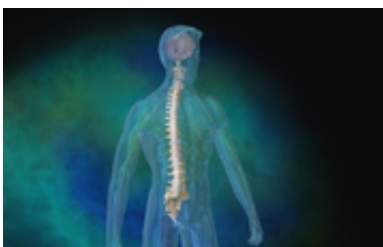


Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

(HealthDay)—Interbody fusion (IF) has been rapidly adopted for the treatment of degenerative spondylolisthesis (DS), according to a study published in the Sept. 1 issue of *Spine*.

Christopher K. Kepler, M.D., M.B.A., from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and colleagues used the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery database to describe trends for patients who underwent surgery for DS from 1999 to 2011. Patients undergoing uninstrumented fusion, fusion with posterior instrumentation, fusion using interbody device, or decompression without fusion were included.

The researchers found that the annual number of cases doubled over the study period, with a total of 5,639 cases. Throughout the study period there was a significant increase in the percentage of cases treated with IF

(13.6 percent in 1999 to 2001 versus 32 percent in 2009 to 2011; P "Despite little evidence guiding treatment strategy for DS, national [treatment](#) patterns have changed dramatically during the past 13 years," conclude the authors.

Relevant financial activities outside the submitted work were disclosed.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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Citation: Interbody fusion rapidly adopted for spondylolisthesis (2014, September 12) retrieved 19 November 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-09-interbody-fusion-rapidly-spondylolisthesis.html>

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