

CBRG PRIORITY TOPICS – SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS AND OTHER INVASIVE THERAPIES.

The list below reflects topics that the CBRG considers to be of high priority. Some of the topics have already been covered in published Cochrane reviews and others have been claimed by review teams with registered titles. This information is noted in the topics list.

Please note that the list is not exhaustive - if you have an idea for a review topic that is not covered here, we would like to hear about it. Before submitting a title request please ensure that you meet the required criteria outlined in the [Title Registration Checklist](#).

TOPICS LISTED BY DISORDER

Lumbar disc herniation

- Surgery vs. conservative care (Note: see [Jacobs 2010](#) – included 5 RCTs)
- Time to surgery affect on clinical outcomes (Note: 1 RCT, included in [Jacobs 2010](#))
- Comparison of discectomy techniques (Note: 1 title already registered in Oct 2010)
- Surgical disc debulking procedures (e.g., laser, automated percutaneous) vs comparison
- Chemonucleolysis
- Prosthetic disc nucleus replacement vs discectomy for lumbar disc herniation
- Annular repair after discectomy vs no annular repair

Spondylolisthesis (reviews may look at isthmic vs degenerative, adolescent vs adult, low-grade vs high grade)

- Surgery vs conservative care (Note: title registered in Dec 2010)
- Time to surgery affect on clinical outcomes (Note: 1 RCT, included in [Jacobs 2010](#))
- Comparison of surgical techniques

Spinal stenosis (without spondylolisthesis)

- Surgery vs conservative care
- Comparison of laminectomy techniques (Note: title registered June 2011)
- Interspinous devices
- Laminectomy with or without fusion/instrumentation/bone grafts (BMP-2, bone harvested from iliac crest or surgical site, and other grafts)

Chronic back pain in the presence of scoliotic deformity

- Surgery vs conservative care in children/adults
- Comparison of surgical techniques in children/adults

Discitis/spondylitis/osteomyelitis

- Antibiotics alone vs surgical treatment and antibiotics

Non-specific low-back pain in the presence of common imaging changes

- Conservative care versus surgery (fusion/disc replacement/thermo-coagulation)
- Lumbar fusion vs. Prosthesis/ Arthroplasty (Note: see [Jacobs 2010](#))
- Lumbar fusion vs. intradiscal thermo-coagulation
- Lumbar fusion vs. coblation
- Dynamic soft stabilization systems (e.g., Graf ligament or other) vs. comparison
- Interspinous devices
- Comparison of bone graft types and/or instrumentation systems in spinal fusion procedures

Chronic back pain attributed to sacroiliac instability/abnormalities

- Sacroiliac fusion vs. comparison treatments

Surgical procedures for back pain in the presence of facet abnormalities

- Facet arthroplasty vs. comparison treatments

TOPICS LISTED BY INTERVENTION

1. Injection therapies

- Intervertebral disc injection [chemonucleolysis; 1 RCT in disc herniation] - intradiscal steroids/methylene blue/other relevant injectates
- Facet joint injection – intra/peri-articular with:
 - corticosteroids (methyl-prednisolone/triamcinolone/betamethasone) [2 RCTs]
 - local anaesthetic (lidocaine/bupivacaine/lignocaine) [1 RCT]
 - sodium hyaluronate [1 RCT]
 - Sarapin (a suspension of powdered pitcher plant in alkaline solution) [1 RCT]
 - a combination of these [3 RCTs]
- Epidural space injection of corticosteroids [2 RCTs] or anaesthetic [1 RCT], for:
 - herniated disc/sciatica
 - spinal stenosis
 - back pain alone
- Transforaminal injection
- Intramuscular injection of vitamin B12 [1 RCT] ; botulinum toxin A [1 RCT]
- Intradiscal injection of stem cells [empty]

- Oxygen-ozone injection vs. comparison for:
 - lumbar disc herniation with sciatica
 - chronic back pain in the presence of common imaging changes

2. Surgical techniques

- Intervertebral disc
 - percutaneous intradiscal radiofrequency thermocoagulation (PIRFT)
 - intradiscal electrothermal therapy (IDET)
 - radiofrequency denervation of the ramus communicans nerve (performed outside the intervertebral disc)
- Facet joint
- Spinal nerve
- Spinal cord stimulation (SCS) vs re-operation/usual care

Denervation

- Radiofrequency (Note: see [Niemisto 2010](#))

Surgically implanted opioid pain pumps

Surgical treatments for back pain in the presence of vertebral fractures

- Vertebroplasty/kyphoplasty vs comparison treatments [maybe in collaboration with the Musculoskeletal Group]

Surgery for non-degenerative disorders

Surgery for thoracic/cervical-spine