

Review of: "Costs of Full Endoscopic Spine Surgery: a Narrative Review"

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The aim of this study was to provide a comprehensive summary of the current literature regarding the costs associated with FESS. This is an important area of investigation, given that, despite the well-established benefits of FESS, concerns persist regarding potential higher costs when compared to traditional open or microscopic spine surgery.

As highlighted by both the authors and previous reviewers, this analysis is complex, leading to a diversity of methodologies in the studies. It is crucial to promote comparisons of expenses and cost-effectiveness between these techniques, particularly when considering costs from a societal perspective, as aptly demonstrated by Gadradj et al.

However, conventional microdiscectomy has been available for decades, and all parties involved in performing this technique have developed strategies to reduce its costs. Even surgeons accept to perform conventional microdiscectomy with less compensation. It is quite unfair to compare it with such a new technique. Surgeons invested in their FESS training, hospitals invested in new equipment, companies invested in new technology and everyone wants to be compensated. After all, FESS is a technique that enhances a surgeon's visualization, reduces invasiveness, and unquestionably adds value, as supported by numerous studies, making it a better option for the patient. In a few years, due to the intensifying competition, costs will likely decrease, as has been observed with various medical procedures (e.g., arthroscopy, laparoscopy).

Congratulations on the study!