

Accuracy of pedicle screw placement using an augmented-reality assisted navigation system

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Virtual / Augmented Reality

- Virtual Reality (VR):
 - Complete immersion in visual and auditory inputs
- Augmented reality (AR):
 - Image overlay on the natural visual field
- Pedicle Screw Accuracy
 - Generally, improves with increasing use of technology

	Freehand	2D Flouro	3D Navigation
Cervical	69.4%	73.3%	90.3%
Thoracic	50.8%	78.4%	93.2%
Lumbar	75.9%	86.8%	96.7%
Overall	68.1%	84.3%	95.5%









AR in Spine Surgery

- Despite widespread use of spinal navigation, inherent difficulties persist
 - Disparate visual / spatial fields
 - Attention-shift

(Nottmeier et al. J Neurosurg Sci 2012, Rahmathulla et al. Neurosurg Focus 2014)



 AR technology builds upon current spinal navigation to reduce ergonomic and efficiency challenges





AR in Spine Surgery

- Our study aims:
 - To radiographically analyze pedicle screws placed using AR technology
 - To report safety, accuracy, and potential for optimized workflow
- Methods:
 - Single surgeon at a single institutions (Dec 2020 Dec 2021)
 - All patients underwent post-operative CT scan



Surgical Workflow

- Two reference arrays
 - Temporary array (sticker): overlying the planned surgical field
 - Permanent array (PSIS pin): direct palpation vs. fluoroscopy
- Intra-op 3D imaging
 - 3D/CT vs. 2D/flouro-based device
 - Integrated to surgeon's wireless headset





Surgical Workflow









0mm

<2mm

<4mm

<6mm

>6mm

Results

- 10 cases : 67 pedicle screws
- No intra-op revision or post-op hardware complication
- Gertzbein-Robbins Grade
 - A: 89.5%
 - B: 9.0%
 - C: 1.5%
 - D: 0.0%
- Complete intrapedicular screw placement: (GR A+B) = **98.5%**

Degenerative	6 (60.0%)		
Deformity	2 (20.0%)	Α	
Tumor	2 (20.0%)		
Thoracic	16 (23.9%)	В	
Lumbar	51 (76.1%)	C	A
		D	-
		E	

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Future Direction

- Applications of AR for progressing surgical technique and efficiency are rapidly developing.
- The radiographic characteristics of initial pedicle screws placed using a novel AR system indicate promising potential for a high standard of accuracy and efficiency.