

STRATEGIES FOR TRANSITIONING TO MINIMALLY INVASIVE LUMBAR FUSION

Course Overview

This is a practical course designed for spine surgeons familiar with techniques of open posterior lumbar fusion who wish to transition to minimally invasive fusion. Experienced faculty will provide concrete and detailed instructions regarding operative technique, case selection, complication avoidance, and bail-out strategies in order to facilitate a step-wise transition from open to minimally invasive surgery.

The didactic session will begin with a discussion of the relevant surgical anatomy and will then progress to discussions of paramedian exposures, mini-open decompression, TLIF, posterolateral fusion, and the mini-open approach.

The didactic session will be followed by a sophisticated cadaver lab replicating the operating room set-up in which the participants will have ample opportunity to practice the surgical techniques presented.

Course Objectives

The principle objective of this course is to equip the participants with a level of technical knowledge and comfort that would allow them to safely transition to minimally invasive fusion surgery in a stepwise and systematic fashion. Upon completion of this program, the participants should be able to:

Identify the cases best suited for open fusion and mini-open fusion.

Discuss the technical steps involved in the different minimally invasive fusion techniques.

Identify and utilize the special features of the Spyder mini-open retractor system, Aesculap TLIF system, and S4 pedicle screws.

AGENDA

7:30 am	Breakfast/Registration
8:00 am	Overview and Relevant Anatomy
8:10 am	Mini-Open Decompression, TLIF and Pedicle Screw Fixation
8:45 am	Break
9:00 am	Cadaver Workshops
12:00 pm	LUNCH/ Q & A
1:00 pm	ADJOURN