

Failed Disc Surgery

Why it fails ?

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Failed Disc Surgery

- It is the re-occurrence of a number of symptoms that arise initially after doing disc operation.
- It is expected to arise in 10-30% of the operated patients

Etiology of Failed Disc Surgery

Poor Patient Selection

- Abnormal psychometrics
- Chronic pain behavior
- Unreachable expectations
- Incorrect or incomplete diagnosis
- Long standing pre-operative sciatica

Psychological LBP

1- Tenderness

Superficial, widespread, non-anatomical

2- SLR

Improves with distraction

3- Loss of power

Jerky

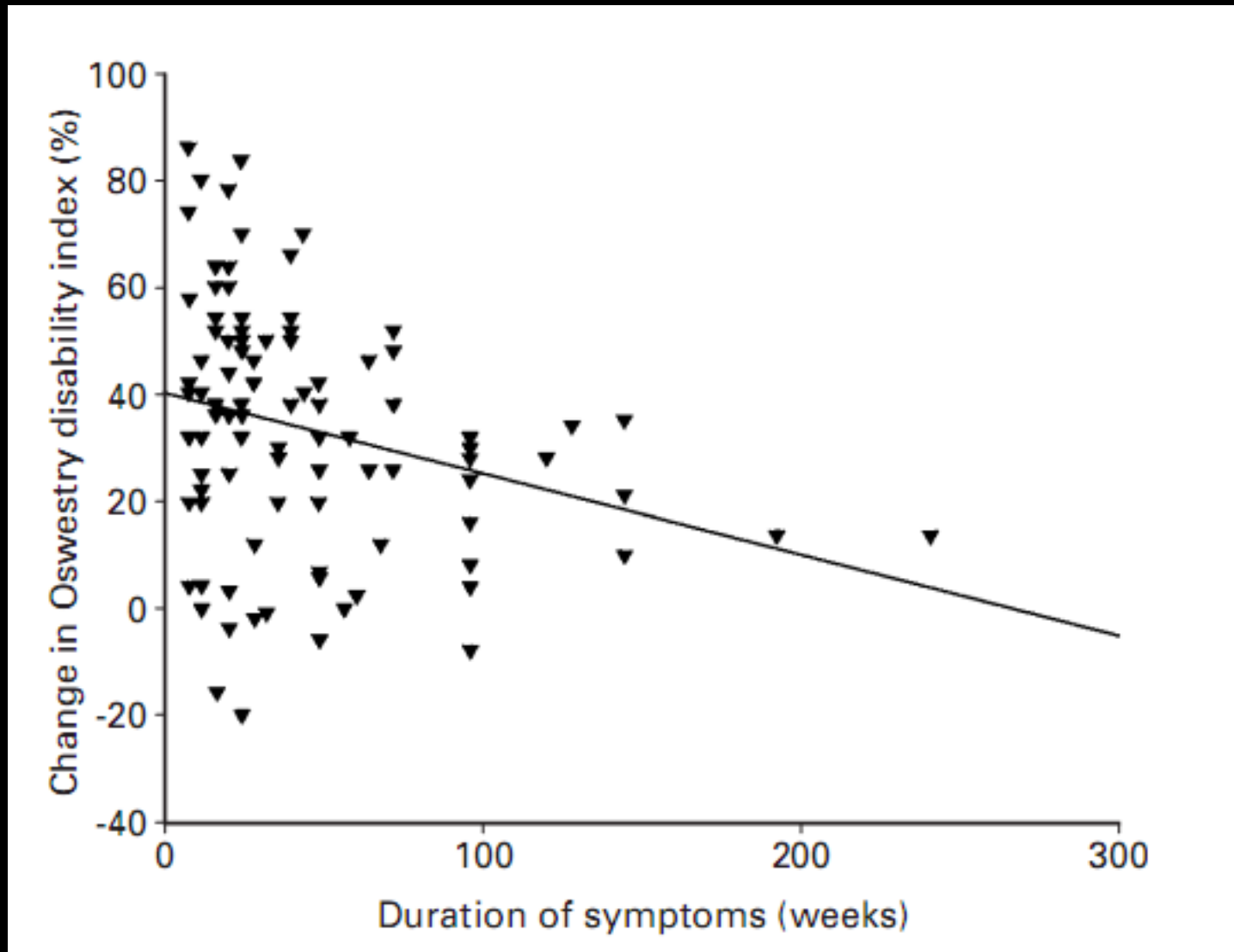
4- Loss of sensation

Regional

5- Axial Loading

Lumbar pain

Pre-operative Duration of Sciatica



Etiology of Failed Disc Surgery

Poor Technique

- Nerve injury “Battered root syndrome”
- Dural Injury
- Iatrogenic instability
- Adhesive arachnoiditis
- Epidural fibrosis

Etiology of Failed Disc Surgery

Wrong Procedure

- Wrong level
- Missed spinal stenosis
- Residual disc material

Etiology of Failed Disc Surgery

New Pathology

- New disc prolapse
- Recurrent disc prolapse
- Spondylodiscitis

Take Home Message

Etiology of Failed Disc Surgery

Poor Patient Selection:

Abnormal psychometrics
Unreachable expectations
Incorrect diagnosis
Long standing sciatica

Poor Technique:

Nerve injury
Dural injury
Iatrogenic instability
Adhesive arachnoiditis
Epidural fibrosis

Take Home Message

Etiology of Failed Disc Surgery

Wrong Procedure:

Wrong level

Missed spinal stenosis

Missed disc material

New Pathology:

New disc prolapse

Recurrent disc prolapse

Spondylodiscitis

Unknown

Thank you