

NORSpine: AI to be used in predicting results after spine surgery: Preliminary results from the AID-Spine project

A collaboration between Centre for Intelligent Musculoskeletal Health (CIM), OsloMet and Tore Solberg et al from the Norwegian centre for clinical AI, SPKI, University Hospital of North-Norway/UiT.



Bjørnar Berg, postdoc AID-Spine, and Martin Gorosito (comp.sc) have conducted the analyses in this presentation.

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"Applying AI in Spine disorders"







Amsterdam



No relevant disclosures

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NorSpine studies; (non)-successful outcomes after surgery

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Acta Orthopaedica 2013; 84 (2): 196-201

Can we define success criteria for lumbar disc surgery? Estimates for a substantial amount of improvement in core outcome measures

Tore Solberg^{1,2}, Lars Gunnar Johnsen^{3,4}, Øystein P Nygaard^{2,3,4}, and Margreth Grotle^{5,6}



Criteria for failure and worsening after surgery for lumbar disc herniation: a multicenter observational study based on data from the Norwegian Registry for Spine Surgery

David A. T. Werner^{1,2} · Margreth Grotle^{3,4} · Sasha Gulati⁵ · Ivar M. Austevoll⁶ · Greger Lønne⁷ · Øystein P. Nygaard^{5,8} · Tore K. Solberg^{1,2,8}

Austevoll et al. BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders (2019) 20:31 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12891-018-2386-y

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Follow-up score, change score or percentage change score for determining clinical important outcome following surgery? An observational study from the Norwegian registry for Spine surgery evaluating patient reported outcome measures in lumbar spinal stenosis and lumbar degenerative spondylolisthesis

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Original Article

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Can a Successful Outcome After Surgery for Lumbar Disc Herniation Be Defined by the Oswestry Disability Index Raw Score?

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Success/non-success in NorSpine 2007-2022 (n~60.000)

Success

disc herniation;

- \geq 22 points (ODI) •
- ≥ 2 points (NRS back)
- \geq 4 points (NRS leg) \bullet







Success spinal stenosis;

- \geq 14 points
- \geq 2 points
- \geq 3 points

Predictive modeling (MIC_{Predictive})

Adjusted for the proportion of • improved patients (MIC_{Adjusted})

(Terluin et al. 2013, 2017)

AID-Spine – using data from NorSpine 2007-2022 (n~60.000)

Success disc herniation 12 mo;

- \geq 22 points (ODI)
- \geq 2 points (NRS back)
- \geq 4 points (NRS leg)



- \geq 14 points (ODI)
- \geq 2 points (NRS back)
- \geq 3 points (NRS leg)









NRS leg

Success **69%**

Non-success 31%

NRS leg

Success **59%**

Non-success 41%

AID-Spine – Background and objectives



- So, are we satisfied with the 27-45% non-success rate?
- How to improve the success rates?
 - To become better in selection of patients referred to (elective) surgery?
- Can Machine Learning (ML) methods provide precise prediction models for successful/non-successful outcomes after surgery?



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AID-Spine treatment success Objective

To develop and validate prediction models for disability and pain 12 months after lumbar disc herniation surgery (and spinal stenosis surgery): Examples from prediction models for disability (ODI) after lumbar disc herniation surgery

The Norwegian Registry for Spine Surgery

NORspine











12 months

NORspine 2007-2021



Machine learning approach



Preoperative predictors (n=25) Patient demographics **Clinical characteristics**

- lacksquare
- Comorbidity
- Analgesics use
- Type of surgery

(No variable selection techniques)

Routinely available preoperative predictors



Machine learning approach





Hyperparameter tuning

Internal-external cross-validation

Combine estimates across *k* imputations



Model performance

AID-Spine treatment success disc herniation

Results – performance ODI (AUC) for lumbar disc herniation





Calibration plots for ODI (over/underestimations of the model)





Predictive features ranked according to importance – ODI

Oswestry Disability Index Duration of back pain Previous surgery Anxiety or depresion NRS back pain NRS leg pain **Education Level** Duration of leg pain Work Status Smoker Body Mass Index Age Native Speaker Comorbidity EQ-5D Unresolved claim issue **Civil Status** ASA score Paresis Grade EQ VAS Gender Surgical levels Emergency surgery Analgesics use Microdiscectomy

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AID-Spine external validation in SweSpine (2016-2023)

Performance of ODI with cross-validation of regional clusters in Sweden (Allan Abbott)



AUC of 0.81 but with larger differences between the health regions in Sweden, also less stable calibration plot



NorSpine analyses – preliminary conclusions



- Can Machine Learning (ML) methods provide precise prediction models for successful/non-successful outcomes after surgery?
 - Promising for disc herniation surgery (both internal and external validations) using ODI as outcome
 - Lower accuracy for NRS back and leg pain
 - Lower accuracy for spinal stenosis surgery for all three outcomes
 - Further external validations in DanSpine
- Further discussions and work in AID-Spine
 - Access to other exposure variables/features •
 - Other outcomes than PROMs (e.g. unfavourable outcomes, sickness absence, prescribed *medication*)
 - Complexity vs feasibility of ML models \bullet







AID-Spine: Health and welfare outcomes (data source)



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