



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MEDICAL

ARTS

Volume 7, Issue 10 (October 2025)

http://ijma.journals.ekb.eg/

P-ISSN: 2636-4174

E-ISSN: 2682-3780



Available online on Journal Website https://ijma.journals.ekb.eg/
Main Subject [¹Orthopedic Surgery]



# **Original Article**

# Adjacent Segment Disease after Lumbar Spine Fixation [A Systematic Review]

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# **Abstract**

**Article information** 

**Received:** 02-01-2023

**Accepted:** 18-04-2025

DOI: 10.21608/ijma.2023.240377.1826.

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Citation: Negm MA, Shwitter LM, Hamouda AR.
Adjacent Segment Disease after Lumbar
Spine Fixation [A Systematic Review].
IJMA 2025 October; 7[10]: 6217-6222. doi: 10.21608/ijma.2023.240377.1826.

**Background:** Disc degeneration is a common form of adjacent segment disease [ASD] that occurs less frequently than laxity, instability, stenosis, nucleus pulposus herniation, hypertrophic facet arthritis, and vertebral compression fractures.

The aim of the work: A systematic review for the determination of the prevalence of disease in adjacent segments after lumbar spine fixation.

Patients and Methods: In this systematic review, conducted during the period from January 2021 to January 2022 was searched up to 2022: 57 papers were included and 28 of these were excluded and only 19 papers were met our inclusion criteria.

Results: lumbar lordosis [degree] showed in 8 studies with highly significant differences [95% CI, -5.49[-7.58, -3.39]; [p value <0.0001]. Lumbopelvic mismatch [degree] reported in 2 studies with highly significant differences [95% CI, 4.55 [0.99, 8.16]; [p value <0.01]. Pelvic tilt incidence [degree] recorded in 4 studies with highly significant differences [95% CI, 3.59 [0.57, 6.69]; [p value <0.01]. Pelvic tilt [degree] reported in 5 studies and showed highly significant differences [95% CI, 3.19 [1.65, 4.69]; [p value <0.01] between ASD group and non-ASD group.

**Conclusion:** In this systematic review associated with a significant increase in detailed information on the prevalence of radiological and symptomatic ASD.

**Keywords:** ASD; Disc degeneration; symptomatic; lumbar spine fixation.



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## **INTRODUCTION**

Although efforts to preserve segmental motion in spine surgery are increasing, spinal fusion remains a standard surgical treatment for deformities, trauma, and degenerative diseases. Clinical and fusion success rates have increased due to improvements in bone graft material and instrumentation. On the contrary, several complications and problems associated with fusion surgery have been reported, with adjacent segment disease [ASD] being one of the most common [1]. Adjacent segment degeneration and adjacent segment disease are frequently diagnosed diseases after spinal fusion surgery, each with and without clinical symptoms. Although up to 43% of patients can develop postoperative ASDis, the prevalence of ASD is much higher [~84%]<sup>[2]</sup>. Mechano-biological role of altered biomechanics after fusion surgery was emphasized. These include postoperative changes in the range of motion of adjacent segments, changes in their anatomy, and intraoperative iatrogenic damage to the paraspinal muscles, which alters the overall alignment and loading of the spine and can cause/accelerate segmental dysfunction [TSA][3]. Fusion length [particularly three or more planes], preoperative sagittal deviation, facet damage/tropism, advanced age, increased body mass index [BMI], and preoperative documentation of degenerative head disease.<sup>[4]</sup>

Although instrumented fusions increased the fusion rate, this was not necessarily associated with better outcomes. In addition, dynamic stabilization techniques failed to protect patients from ASD.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Jin** C *et al.* <sup>[6]</sup> 164 months postoperatively, ASD occurred in 18.5% of instrumented patients, compared to significantly less than 5.6% in non-instrumented posterior fusions.

Therefore, in this systematic review, we aimed to assess the prevalence of adjacent segment disease after lumbar spine fixation.

# PATIENTS AND METHODS

Search strategy: In this systematic review, led during the period from January 2021 to January 2022 was looked up to 2022: 57 papers were incorporated and 28 of these were rejected and just 19 papers were met our consideration models. Research technique data set utilized included PubMed, Google Researcher web crawler, EMBASE and Science Direct, Wiley Online Library, MESH and Huge Clinical Information base for explicit watchwords and terms: "Adjacent segment disease, Fixation, Lumber and Spine". The review convention was gotten moral endorsement from the Exploration Morals Advisory group of the Staff of Medication, Al—Azhar College, Cairo

**Study selection:** Essential examinations, paying little mind to concentrate on plan, were qualified for consideration assuming they included patients who went through lumbar combination, assurance of hazard factors for ASD, and factual investigation of chance elements for ASD. Prominently, in light of the fact that the presence of preoperative degeneration of neighboring circles as well as features would influence the postoperative state of contiguous plates, just examinations that evaluated these variables were incorporated. Cadaveric examinations, case reports, editorials, audits, gathering procedures, concentrate on conventions, or non-English articles were prohibited. Also, ASD was operationally defined as the indicative degeneration of portions neighboring the worked vertebral levels regardless of reactivity and analyzed by both radio-graphic signs and clinical side effects.

Data extraction and Quality Assessment: Data connected with the members, record a medical procedure, ASD, and risk factors for ASD

was removed. Study-announced gauges connected with the relationship between different risk factors and ASD, or the MD of boundaries between patients with and without ASD, were extricated. Because all of the identified studies had either a review companion or a case-control plan, the gamble of inclination was surveyed by the particular Newcastle-Ottawa Scale [NOS] for partner and case-control studies, which are approved instruments for these review plans.

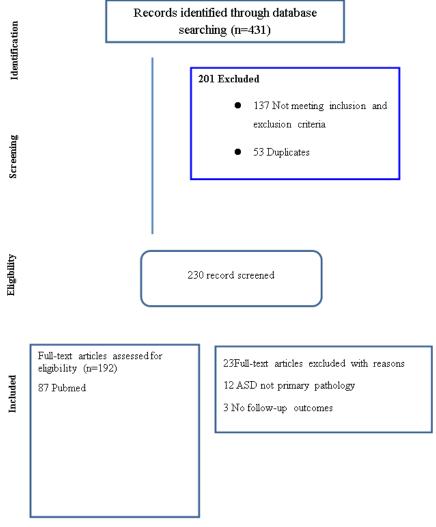
Strength of Evidence: Each hazard factor was assessed subjectively based on the consistency of measurable findings for a given gamble factor and the systemic nature of the important included studies. The strength of proof of each chance element was sorted areas of strength for as, restricted, extremely restricted, conflicting, or no evidence

Statistical Analysis: The related 95% meeting stretches [CIs] were accounted for. Risk factors for ASD were contrasted among patients and without ASD. Arbitrary impacts models were utilized to investigate all pooled risk factors. The homogeneity among studies was assessed by measurement. Significance was set at p < 0.05.

# **RESULTS**

Characteristics of the included studies were analyzed in [Table 1]. In preoperative, body mass index there were 3 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI,2.66 [1.67, 3.84]]; Test for overall effect: z = 4.97[p value <0.0001] [Table 2]. Facet joint violation there were 2 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, 31.29 [16.61, 51.10]; Test for overall effect: z = 12.34 [p value <0.0001] [Table 3]. lumbo-sacral sagittal plumb line distance [mm] there were 4 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [5 studies; 95% CI, 7.10 [4.69, 9.06]; Test for overall effect: z = 6.17 [p value <0.0001] [Table 4]. Lumbar lordosis[degree] there were 8 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, -5.51[-7.95, -3.49]; Test for overall effect: z = 6.17 [p value <0.0001] [Table 5]. adjacent disc degeneration [pfirrman Grade ≥3]] there was 8 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, 1.81 [1.91, 3.60]; Test for overall effect: z = 2.96 [p value <0.0002] [Table 6]. Adjacent disc height [mm] there were 4 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, -0.68 [-1.25, 0.10]; Test for overall effect: z = 2.34 [p value <0.0002] [Table 7]. lumbo-sacral sagittal plumb line distance [mm] there were 8 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, 3.89 [2.64, 5.94]; Test for overall effect: z=5.12 [p value <0.0001] [Table 8].

In postoperative lumbar lordosis [degree], there were 8 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, -5.49[-7.58, -3.39]; Test for overall effect: z=5.17 [p value <0.0001] [Table 9]. Lumbopelvic mismatch [degree] there were 2 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, 4.55 [0.99, 8.16]; Test for overall effect: z=2.47 [p value <0.01] [Table 10]. Pelvic tilt incidence [degree] there were 4 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, 3.59 [0.57, 6.69]; Test for overall effect: z=2.47 [p value <0.01] [Table 11]. Pelvic tilt [degree] there were 5 studies compared patients with ASD and without ASD observed that there were highly significant differences [95% CI, 3.19 [1.65, 4.69]; Test for overall effect: z=2.47 [p value <0.01] [Table 12].



TDR, total disc replacement; ASD, adjacent spinal disease; PRISMA

Figure [1]: Flow diagram of search strategy results conducted per PRISMA guidelines

Table [1] - Characteristics of the included studies

Author	Year	Country	No. Of par		Follow up	Study type
× 4 [7]	2015	•	ASD	Total	time [years]	
Lin <sup>[7]</sup>	2017	Japan	20	100	5	Retrospective
Mi <sup>[8]</sup>	2014	Japan	32	200	4	Retrospective
Wang <sup>[9]</sup>	2017	Japan	15	90	6	Retrospective
Liang <sup>[10]</sup>	2014	Japan	20	100	7	Retrospective
Makino <sup>[11]</sup>	2018	Japan	30	90	3	Retrospective
Heo <sup>[12]</sup>	2015	Japan	10	50	4	Retrospective
Zhong <sup>[13]</sup>	2017	Korea	30	90	5	Retrospective
Ma <sup>[14]</sup>	2019	Japan	10	150	5	Retrospective
Ushio <sup>[15]</sup>	2019	Japan	15	150	6	Retrospective
Bagheri <sup>[16]</sup>	2019	Hind	18	60	7	Retrospective
Bae <sup>[17]</sup>	2018	Japan	20	100	8	Retrospective
Cho <sup>[18]</sup>	2019	Japan	32	200	4	Retrospective
Soh <sup>[19]</sup>	2020	Japan	15	90	3	Retrospective
Anandjwala <sup>[20]</sup>	2021	Japan	20	100	2	Retrospective
Chen <sup>[21]</sup>	2021	Japan	20	200	3	Retrospective
Weishi <sup>[22]</sup>	2018	Japan	20	100	4	Retrospective
Guo <sup>[23]</sup>	2020	Japan	32	200	5	Retrospective
Park <sup>[24]</sup>	2014	Canada	15	90	6	Retrospective
Lawrence <sup>[25]</sup>	2018	Canada	20	100	5	Retrospective

Table [2] - Body Mass Index [Kg/m<sup>2</sup>]

Study	ASD	Non-ASD	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD			
Lin <sup>[7]</sup> 2017	23.25±2.52	25.68±2.36	26.6%	1.46 [-0.11, 2.32]	2017
Wang <sup>[9]</sup> 2017	$26.6 \pm 2.1$	23.2±2.1	38.5%	2.61 [2.65, 3.63]	2017
Makino <sup>[11]</sup> 2018	26.8±2.4	24.2±2.2	34.9%	2.60 [1.59, 3.81]	2018
Total [95% CI]			100%	2.66 [1.67, 3.84]	

Table [3] - Preoperative facet joint violation

Study	ASD	Non-ASD	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
	event	event			
Lin <sup>[7]</sup> 2017	54	42	84.5%	33.66 [17.07, 58.31]	2017
Makino[11] 2018	13	37	15.5%	21.76 [4.44, 75.84]	2018
	Total [95% CI]		100%	31.29 [16.61, 51.10]	

Table [4] - Preoperative lumbo-sacral sagittal plumb line distance [mm]

Study	ASD	Non-ASD	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD			
Zhong <sup>[13]</sup>	21.14±8.2	15.34±8.1	87.5%	6.70 [4.55, 8.89]	2017
Ma <sup>[14]</sup>	$28.9 \pm 28.8$	21.4±23.7	4.5%	7.50 [-3.43, 17.45]	2019
Ushio <sup>[15]</sup>	43.8±75.2	22.1±83.4	0.5%	22.69 [-12.40, 54.79]	2019
Bagheri <sup>[16]</sup>	23.7±17.4	14.3±16	7.5%	8.50 [1.05, 17.71]	2019
	Total [95% CI]			7.10 [4.69, 9.06]	

Table [5] - Preoperative lumbar lordosis [degrees]

	ASD	Non-ASD	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD			
Bae <sup>[17]</sup>	31.34±10.2	39.70±3.2	23.5%	6.70 [4.55, -8.89]	2018
Cho <sup>[18]</sup>	39.9±11.8	44.9±9.10	11.5%	-7.50 [-8.65, 5.08]	2019
Soh <sup>[19]</sup>	40.05±12.9	47.2±8.78	7.5%	-4.60[-10.57, -0.67]	2021
Anandjwala <sup>[20]</sup>	55.9±13.5	52.9±9.8	10.5%	-8.80 [-14.08, 3.51]	2021
Chen <sup>[21]</sup>	49.1±11.60	45.9±4.8	9.5%	-6.90 [-12.3, -0.88]	2021
Weishi <sup>[22]</sup>	39.76±12.60	$38.7 \pm 10.9$	11.5%	-5.91 [-10.40, -1.32]	2018
Guo <sup>[23]</sup>	32.9±10.2	39.9±10.1	12.5%	-6.49 [-12.01, -1.93]	2020
Park <sup>[24]</sup>	45.9±11.9	36.5±11	13.5%	12.50 [-1.54, 23.54]	2014
	Total [95% CI]		100%	-5.51[-7.95, -3.49]	

Table [6] - Preoperative adjacent disc degeneration [pfirrman Grade ≥3]

	ASD Event	Non-ASD Event	Weight%	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
Bae <sup>[17]</sup>	18	21	13.5%	0.68 [0.53, 2.10]	2018
Cho <sup>[18]</sup>	46	137	16.5%	2.75 [2.71, 5.86]	2019
Soh <sup>[19]</sup>	9	64	10.5%	0.75[0.42, 2.82]	2020
Anandjwala <sup>[20]</sup>	15	77	9.5%	2.10 [0.39, 4.53]	2021
Chen <sup>[21]</sup>	20	115	13.5%	3.03 [1.34, 8.02]	2021
Weishi <sup>[22]</sup>	26	188	12.5%	0.80 [0.83, 7.20]	2018
Guo <sup>[23]</sup>	22	20	11.5%	0.70 [0.37, 2.21]	2020
Park <sup>[24]</sup>	15	15	12.5%	2.33 [1.92, 8.95]	2014
	Total [95% CI]		100%	1.81 [1.91, 3.60]	

Table [7] - Preoperative adjacent disc height [mm]

Study	ASD	Non-ASD	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD			
Zhong <sup>[13]</sup>	7.4±2.3	7.3±2.1	22.5%	-019 [-133, 0.93]	2017
Ma <sup>[14]</sup>	7.9±1.6	8.4±1.7	37.5%	-0.49 [-134, 0.31]	2019
Ushio <sup>[15]</sup>	8.7±2.4	10.3±2.1	23.5%	-1.59 [-2.96, -0.49]	2019
Bagheri <sup>[16]</sup>	9.4±1.9	9.9±1.7	16.5%	-0.48 [-1.86, 0.86]	2019
	Total [95% CI]		100%	-0.68 [-1.25, 0.10]	

Table [8] - Postoperative lumbo-sacral sagittal plumb line distance [mm]

Study	ASD	Non-ASD	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD			
Zhong <sup>[13]</sup>	17.23±6.7	14.40±3.9	92%	3.80 [2.22, 5.74]	2017
Ma <sup>[14]</sup>	$28.9 \pm 28.8$	21.1±24.5	2%	7.50 [-3.33, 18.45]	2019
Ushio <sup>[15]</sup>	38.5±67.1	22.5±60.9	2%	15.08 [-11.29, 34.25]	2019
Bagheri <sup>[16]</sup>	16.5±17.1	13.5±13	4%	3.01 [-4.45, 10.47]	2019
	Total [95% CI]		100%	3.89 [2.64, 5.94]	

Table [9] - Postoperative lumbar lordosis [degrees]

	ASD Mean±SD	Non-ASD Mean±SD	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
Bae <sup>[17]</sup>	31.34±10.1	39.70±3.2	23.5%	-7.73 [-9.56, -5.90]	2018
Cho <sup>[18]</sup>	39.9±11.8	44.9±9.10	11.5%	-4.49 [-9.75, 0.75]	2019
Soh <sup>[19]</sup>	40.05±12.9	47.2±8.78	7.5%	-8.79[-15.90, -2.15]	2020
Anandjwala <sup>[20]</sup>	55.9±13.5	52.9±9.8	10.5%	-6.51 [-11.13, -0.10]	2021
Chen <sup>[21]</sup>	49.1±11.60	45.9±4.8	9.5%	-0.39 [-6.65, -5.57]	2021
Weishi <sup>[22]</sup>	39.76±12.60	38.7±10.9	11.5%	-5.69 [-10.86, -0.27]	2018
Guo <sup>[23]</sup>	32.9±10.2	39.9±10.1	12.5%	-6.49 [-11.16, -1.38]	2020
Park <sup>[24]</sup>	45.9±11.9	36.5±11	13.5%	11.49 [-1.44, 23.54]	2014
	Total [95% CI	]	100%	-5.49[-7.58, -3.39]	

Table [10] - Postoperative lumbopelvic mismatch [degrees]

Study	ASD event	Non-ASD event	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
Lin <sup>[7]</sup> 2017	8.89±9.69	5.49±13.39	51.5%	3.39 [-1.61, 8.41]	2017
Makino <sup>[11]</sup> 2018	13.20±13.39	7.29±9.29	49.5%	5.79 [0.59, 10.89]	2018
	Total [95% CI]		100%	4.55 [0.99, 8.16]	

Table [11] - Postoperative pelvic incidence [degrees]

Study	ASD event	Non-ASD event	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
Lin <sup>[7]</sup> 2017	58.9±8.3	57.9±9.6	28.5%	2.9 [-2.03, 6.23]	2017
Makino <sup>[11]</sup> 2018	54.9±9.60	53.61±10.9	26.5%	1.42 [-3.25, 6.12]	2018
Ushio <sup>[15]</sup>	65.5±12.1	62.3±14.9	25%	3.10 [-2.99, 9.35]	2019
Bagheri <sup>[16]</sup>	59.4±9.9	51.5±10.3	20%	7.70 [3.39, 12.19]	2019
Total [95% CI]			100%	3.59 [0.57, 6.69]	

Table [12] - Postoperative pelvic tilt [degrees]

Study	ASD event	Non-ASD event	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
Lin <sup>[7]</sup> 2017	22.2±8.6	21.2±7.6	17%	0.99 [-2.67, 4.67]	2017
Makino <sup>[11]</sup> 2018	26.5±5.9	22.5±7.7	25%	3.79 [0.75, 6.83]	2018
Ushio <sup>[15]</sup>	25.7±7.45	22.9±8.9	23%	4.19 [0.15, 8.25]	2019
Park <sup>[24]</sup>	24.9±6.9	22.9±8.1	15%	2.69 [-0.95, 6.35]	2014
Bagheri <sup>[16]</sup>	22.3±6.9	17.9±5.9	20%	3.79 [0.90, 6.65]	2019
	Total [95% CI]		100%	3.19 [1.65, 4.69]	

### **DISCUSSION**

Consistent with some clinical findings, radiographic ASD can progress to symptomatic ASD, and symptomatic ASD can result in severe pain, dysfunction, or the need for additional surgery [15]. In this systematic review, conducted during the period from January 2021 to January 2022 was searched up to 2022: 57 papers were included and 28 of these were excluded and only 19 papers met our inclusion criteria. Weishi *et al.* [16] revealed that the radiological meaning of ASD fluctuated from one review to another, however the definition proposed **Guo et al.** [17] arranged ASD into 4 phases relying upon X-ray.

A common surgical procedure used to treat degenerative spinal diseases is posterior lumbar fusion. According to previous research by Park et al. [18] the incidence of ASD following posterior lumbar fusion surgery was 18.6% [ranging from 8.5 to 69.4%] in this study. ASD continues to be a concern for spine surgeons. The pooled results from this systematic review proposed that orientation of patients, history of diabetes, BMD, preoperative ODI and JOA, the sort of combination [PLIF versus TLIF], kind of bone join [auto-versus allograft]. combination to S1 [versus non-combination to S1], analyze [lumbar circle herniation, lumbar spinal stenosis, lumbar spondylolisthesis], preoperative PT, LL and SS, post-employable SS, PT, and PI were not were related with a critical expansion in the occurrence of ASD. However, a significant increase in the incidence of ASD was linked to older age, BMI, a history of smoking and hypertension, preoperative adjacent disc degeneration, long-segment fusion, superior facet violation, high lumbosacral joint angle, pre- and post-operative L1-S1 SVA, post-operative LL, and preoperative PI. A significant correlation was found between the prevalence of ASD and long fusion with more

than three levels. Soh et al. [19] and Anandjiwala et al. [20] found that compared to single-level fusion, multilevel fusion was three times more likely to have ASD. The diminished versatility and expanded firmness of the lumbar section brought about by the long combination makes it challenging to recognize biomechanical changes in the contiguous movement fragment, including pressure fixation and intradiscal pressure that favor degeneration in the nearby portion. Chen et al. [21] showed that sagittal arrangement boundaries were not related to the improvement of ASD. Despite the fact that, Lawrence et al. [36] patients with postoperative ASD have a measurably higher probability to develop ASD, Guo et al. [37] in line with our findings demonstrated a strong correlation between ASD development and partial sagittal parameters. Moreover, past concentrate by Weishi et al. [22] showed that patients with typical C7 opposite arrangement had a lower occurrence of nearby plane removals after lumbar spine combination, and one more past concentrate by Guo et al. [23] found that patients with ordinary C7 Opposite arrangement to postoperative sagittal arrangement of the lumbar spine had a lower occurrence of ASD. In addition, park et al. [24] and Lawrence et al. [25] concentrated on patients with cervical radiculopathy after ACDF or back foraminotomy without combination. 39% of patients developed a post-fusion ASD after a median follow-up of four years, while fifty percent of patients who underwent a posterior foraminotomy also developed an adjacent and operated ASD.

**Conclusion:** Significant increase in detailed information on the prevalence of radiological and symptomatic ASD.

Financial and non-financial activities and relationships of interest: None

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# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MEDICAL

ARTS

Volume 7, Issue 10 (October 2025)

http://ijma.journals.ekb.eg/

P-ISSN: 2636-4174

E-ISSN: 2682-3780