



Standing tall: Spinal alignment in adult spinal deformities

Jwalant S. Mehta Consultant Spinal Surgeon Royal Orthopaedic Hospital BMI Healthcare



Serious about health. Passionate about care.

YALLEL MARKEN STREET



Life is a kyphosing event





Spectrum of pathology

- Osteoporosis
- Discs and facet joints
- Failure of the spinal column

Outline

Standing tall by re-aligning the spine

- Consequences of advanced degenerative changes
- How do we measure the effects
- Case examples
- When to refer

Disc degeneration

Changes in the 'motion segment'

- resistance of the annulus to torque is reduced
- increased mechanical demand on posterior elements

The coronal plane deformity

The sagittal plane deformity

Pelvic measures

- Sacral slope (SS)
- Pelvic tilt (PT)
- Pelvic incidence (PI)

Pelvic incidence

- Key parameter
- Perpendicular to: the middle of the sacral end plate

mid-point of femoral heads

55° ± 10.6° (Vialle JBJS 2005)

Significance of pelvic tilt

- Centre of gravity over LL
- Maintains sacral plate posterior to the hip
- Increases with age

Cone of economy J. Dubousset

Type 1: Non-harmonious spine

Thoraco lumbar disc

Junctional listhesis

Type 2: Harmonious but Flat Back

Type 3:The most harmonious ("probably a good back")

Type 4: Harmonious but hyper-curved.

- •When young: very strong
 - •High Pl
 - Good lordosis
- •With aging
 - will lose lordosis
 - •pelvic tilt increases to
 - compensate for anterior imbalance

Lumbar stenosis + spondylolisthesis

Fixed or flexible sagittal deformity

Standing lat

Hyperext lat

Aims of intervention

Restore the lordosis

Restore the plumb line

Restore the 'curves'

Adult Deformity: Surgical goals

- Normalize & balance contours
- Fuse the least number of segments
- Neural decompression
- Obtain solid biological fusion

Adaptation of lordosis

- Excise facet joints
- 'Open' degenerate disc spaces
- Osteotomies

 $LL=PI \pm 9^{\circ}$

• Measure the PI, and build in the lordosis

Surgical reconstruction: Adult Deformity

- Major operation
- Anaesthetic input early

discuss mortality and morbidity

- 2 spinal surgeons
- Spinal cord monitoring
- ITU, Physiotherapy

Problems

Realistic expectations

Medical co-morbidites

Osteoporosis

Junctional problems

When to refer

- Unable to stand upright
- New 'forward gaze' issues
- Static or dynamic 'stoop'
- Loss of 'height'

When to refer

• Axial back pain

• Radiation: thigh pain; claudication; groin pain

Myotomal radiation

• Refer early.....not all need surgery

R AP ERECT

Active

- Back pain
- 'Leans over' after a long walk
- Difficulty in 'straightening up' when standing up from sitting

Never too early!

- Not everyone needs an operation
- Understanding expectations
- Tailor management
- Review over time

Serious about health. Passionate about care.