Reviewer's report

**Title:** Posterior Short Segment Pedicle Screw Fixation and TLIF for the Treatment of Unstable Thoracolumbar Fracture

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 8 October 2013

**Reviewer:** Kook Jin Chung

**Reviewer's report:**

I reviewed this paper.

This paper is about the results of unstable burst fractures treated with short segment fixation with TLIF. This article handles with the results of thoracolumbar burst fracutres treated with TLIF.

I think that the techniques that the authors used in this paper is not the same as the original concept of TLIF.

Usually TLIF can get good result especially in cases with good bone quality of endplate. If it is not good, the cages can sink within the vertebral body. The authors did not make any comments about conditions of endplate in this case series.

Also pedicle screws that qwew inserted did not offer secure anchor in the construct because they were polyaxial screws and did not reach anterior column.

Also the materials that included in this study is not homogenous because in view of anatomical area that occurs in fractures such as thoracolumbar junction nad lumbar spine.

In view of neurologic deficits, I think that many cases must be treated with anterior decompression and strut graft.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.