Author's response to reviews

Title: Biomechanical Comparison of Lumbar Spine Instability between Laminectomy and Bilateral Laminotomy for Spinal Stenosis Syndrome- An Experimental Study in Porcine Model

Authors:

Ching-Lung Tai (taicl@mail.cgu.edu.tw)
Pang-Hsing Hsieh (hsiehph@adm.cgcmh.org.tw)
Weng-Pin Chen (wpchen@cycu.edu.tw)
Lih-Huei Chen (lchen2132@adm.cgcmh.org.tw)
Wen-Jer Chen (chenwenji@adm.cgcmh.org.tw)
Po-Liang Lai (ortholab@adm.cgcmh.org.tw)

Version: 4 Date: 12 May 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
May 12, 2008

Manuscript ID: 4764738691603085

Title: Biomechanical Comparison of Lumbar Spine Instability between Laminectomy and Bilateral Laminotomy for Spinal Stenosis Syndrome-An Experimental Study in Porcine Model

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Thank you for your letter on May, 8th, 2008.

We appreciate very much your editorial work on our manuscript. It is a great pleasure for us to revise it in accordance with the concerns and comments. Certain changes and modifications have been made and marked in bold type in the revised manuscript. We wish this revised version would meet the criteria for publication.

The following statements are the authors’ response to the concerns the Reviewers have mentioned in the letter.

Response for reviewer #2 (Dr. Jim Dickey):

Thank you for your review work. We have listed our response to your comments and suggestions as follows:

1. Indeed, from a biomechanical point of view, an applied eccentric load will lead to different loads at each spinal level since the load at an individual spinal level depend on the flexibility of the spine. Therefore, the eccentrically applied moment will vary due to the change of specimen stiffness resulted from different surgical reconstruction procedures.

   As your suggestion, we have incorporated this point into the limitations/discussion in the revised manuscript.

2. We thank you very much for providing numerous references to bolster the porcine model in this manuscript. As your suggestion, we have added all references to bolster the porcine model, and we propose this manuscript will be strengthened by the addition of these references (Reference #22 to #28, Page 20).
We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you very much again.

Sincerely,

Po-Liang Lai, MD (Corresponding author)
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital
No.5, Fu-Hsin Street, 333,
Kweishan, Taoyuan, Taiwan, R.O.C.
Tel: +886-3-3281200 ext. 2163
Fax: +886-3-3278113
E-mail: ortholab@adm.cgmh.org.tw