This is a survey of postoperative braces for lumbar spine surgery.

In the check boxes, select one option for "○" and multiple options for "□"

Please check the box closest to your situation and avoid leaving any blank.

**Q1. What medical department are you based on or do you belong to?**

○ Orthopedic Surgery

○ Neurosurgery

**Q2. What is the primary facility in which you perform the surgeries?**

○ University hospital

○ Public hospital

○ Private general hospital

○ Private spine hospital

**Q3. What is the annual number of spinal surgeries you perform as the primary surgeon or the first assistant?**

○ <20 ○ 20-50 ○ 50-80 ○ >80

**Q4. What is your age?**

○ <30 ○ 30-39 ○ 40-49 ○50-59 ○ >60

**Q5. How many years have you been performing spinal surgery regularly (monthly or more often)?**

○ Not performing regular surgeries yet

○ <5 years ○ 5-10 years ○ 10-20 years ○ >20 years

**Q6. What are your positions?**

○ Training in progress

○ Attending surgeon

○ Chief/Director

**Q7. Regarding lumbar posterior decompression in endoscopic surgery(laminectomy/discectomy):**

**7-A. Do you routinely perform or serve as an instructive assistant for the above surgeries?**

○ Yes (Answer 7-B below)

○ No (Proceed to Q8 on the next page)

**7-B. Do you use a brace postoperatively? :**

○ Usually use (Answer Q7-C to H below)

○ Usually do not use (Proceed to Q8 on the next page)

**7-C. What type of postoperative brace you usually use? Choose one:**

○ Lumbar support belt; a rubber or elastic band

○ Soft corset; fabric/mesh material (including Damen with only metal struts)

○ Rigid orthosis; plastic or metal material (including Jewett with metal frame)

**7-D. What purposes for the postoperative brace you usually use? Choose all that apply:**

☐ Promote bone fusion

☐ Pain relief

☐ Wound protection

☐ Slow down excessive activity

**7-E. How long is it for wearing the postoperative brace? Choose one:**

○ Less than 3 weeks

○ 3 weeks to less than 8 weeks

○ 2 months to less than 4 months

○ 4 months or more

**7-F. If guidelines state "there is no evidence for postoperative braces for bone fusion or pain relief purposes":**

○ It will affect future medical care (changes in brace prescription indications, types, duration, etc.)

○ It will not affect current medical care

**7-G. If the department head declares "postoperative braces are not necessary for bone fusion or pain relief purposes":**

○ It will affect future brace prescription (changes in indications, types, duration, etc.)

○ It will not affect current brace prescription

**Q8. Regarding lumbar posterior decompression in open surgery (laminectomy/discectomy):**

**8-A. Do you routinely perform or serve as the instructive assistant for the above surgeries?**

○ Yes (Answer 8-B below)

○ No (Proceed to Q9 on the next page)

**8-B. Do you use a brace postoperatively? :**

○ Usually use (Answer Q8-C to H below)

○ Usually do not use (Proceed to Q9 on the next page)

**8-C. What type of postoperative brace you usually use? Choose one:**

○ Lumbar support belt; a rubber or elastic band

○ Soft corset; fabric/mesh material (including Damen with only metal struts)

○ Rigid orthosis; plastic or metal material (including Jewett with metal frame)

**8-D. What purposes for the postoperative brace you usually use? Choose all that apply:**

☐ Promote bone fusion

☐ Pain relief

☐ Wound protection

☐ Slow down excessive activity

**8-E. How long is it for wearing the postoperative brace? Choose one:**

○ Less than 3 weeks

○ 3 weeks to less than 8 weeks

○ 2 months to less than 4 months

○ 4 months or more

**8-F. If guidelines state "there is no evidence for postoperative braces for bone fusion or pain relief purposes":**

○ It will affect future medical care (changes in brace prescription indications, types, duration, etc.)

○ It will not affect current medical care

**8-G. If the department head declares "postoperative braces are not necessary for bone fusion or pain relief purposes":**

○ It will affect future brace prescription (changes in indications, types, duration, etc.)

○ It will not affect current brace prescription

**Q9. Regarding lumbar posterior fusion surgery involving only 1 intervertebral level (PLF, TLIF, PLIF):**

**9-A. Do you routinely perform or serve as the instructive assistant for the above surgeries?**

○ Yes (Answer 9-B below)

○ No (Proceed to Q10 on the next page)

**9-B. Do you use a brace postoperatively? :**

○ Usually use (Answer Q9-C to H below)

○ Usually do not use (Proceed to Q10 on the next page)

**9-C. What type of postoperative brace you usually use? Choose one:**

○ Lumbar support belt; a rubber or elastic band

○ Soft corset; fabric/mesh material (including Damen with only metal struts)

○ Rigid orthosis; plastic or metal material (including Jewett with metal frame)

**9-D. What purposes for the postoperative brace you usually use? Choose all that apply:**

☐ Promote bone fusion

☐ Pain relief

☐ Wound protection

☐ Slow down excessive activity

**9-E. How long is it for wearing the postoperative brace? Choose one:**

○ Less than 3 weeks

○ 3 weeks to less than 8 weeks

○ 2 months to less than 4 months

○ 4 months or more

**9-F. If guidelines state "there is no evidence for postoperative braces for bone fusion or pain relief purposes":**

○ It will affect future medical care (changes in brace prescription indications, types, duration, etc.)

○ It will not affect current medical care

**9-G. If the department head declares "postoperative braces are not necessary for bone fusion or pain relief purposes":**

○ It will affect future brace prescription (changes in indications, types, duration, etc.)

○ It will not affect current brace prescription

**Q10. Regarding lumbar posterior fusion surgery involving 3 or more intervertebral level (PLF, TLIF, PLIF):**

**10-A. Do you routinely perform or serve as the instructive assistant for the above surgeries?**

○ Yes (Answer 10-B below)

○ No (Proceed to Q11 on the next page)

**10-B. Do you use a brace postoperatively? :**

○ Usually use (Answer Q10-C to H below)

○ Usually do not use (Proceed to Q11 on the next page)

**10-C. What type of postoperative brace you usually use? Choose one:**

○ Lumbar support belt; a rubber or elastic band

○ Soft corset; fabric/mesh material (including Damen with only metal struts)

○ Rigid orthosis; plastic or metal material (including Jewett with metal frame)

**10-D. What purposes for the postoperative brace you usually use? Choose all that apply:**

☐ Promote bone fusion

☐ Pain relief

☐ Wound protection

☐ Slow down excessive activity

**10-E. How long is it for wearing the postoperative brace? Choose one:**

○ Less than 3 weeks

○ 3 weeks to less than 8 weeks

○ 2 months to less than 4 months

○ 4 months or more

**10-F. If guidelines state "there is no evidence for postoperative braces for bone fusion or pain relief purposes":**

○ It will affect future medical care (changes in brace prescription indications, types, duration, etc.)

○ It will not affect current medical care

**10-G. If the department head declares "postoperative braces are not necessary for bone fusion or pain relief purposes":**

○ It will affect future brace prescription (changes in indications, types, duration, etc.)

○ It will not affect current brace prescription

**Q11. Do you have the scientific knowledge (papers, textbooks, seminars) regarding the utility of postoperative braces: Choose one:**

○ I have positive scientific knowledge supporting the utility of postoperative braces.

○ I have negative scientific knowledge against the utility of postoperative braces.

○ I have both positive and negative scientific knowledge regarding the utility of postoperative braces.

○ I don't have specific scientific knowledge on this matter.

**Q12. Do you have the following reasons for using postoperative braces? Choose all that apply:**

☐ To provide the doctor himself reassurance

☐ To reassure and satisfy the patient

☐ To Adhere the traditional or customary treatment

☐ To contribute to the hospital's profit

☐ None of these reasons

**Q13. Main basis for deciding the indications for postoperative braces: Choose one:**

○ Scientific evidence

○ Personal experience

○ Recommendations from colleagues or superiors