

Comments on “Percutaneous Kyphoplasty to Relieve the Rib Region Pain in Osteoporotic Thoracic Vertebral Fracture Patients Without Local Pain of Fractured Vertebra”

To THE EDITOR:

We read your retrospective study titled ‘Percutaneous Kyphoplasty to Relieve the Rib Region Pain in Osteoporotic Thoracic Vertebral Fracture Patients Without Local Pain of Fractured Vertebra’ with great interest, which was informative and discusses idea of percutaneous kyphoplasty alleviating the rib region pain in thoracic vertebral fracture patients (1).

However, there are a few aspects of the study that need to be clarified. First, dermatomal pain after vertebral compression fracture is caused by irritation of spinal nerve by narrowing of the intervertebral foramen due to decrease in height of fractured vertebrae (2). Compression of ventral rami and sympathetic ganglion without disruption in cortex or impingement is unsettling postulation.

Second, the nature of pain due to compression of nerve and sympathetic ganglion is sharp, shooting with or without neuropathic features in contrary to dull, aching pain as described in this study, which is characteristic of somatic pain (3). Lastly, whether duration of pain is in days or weeks.

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2. Doo TH, Shin DA, Kim HI, et al. Clinical relevance of pain patterns in osteoporotic vertebral compression fractures. *J Korean Med Sci* 2008; 23:1005-1010.
3. Campbell JN, Meyer RA. Mechanisms of neuropathic pain. *Neuron* 2006; 52:77-92.