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Mapping spine procedures in Italy: a first step towards the organisation of the Italian National Spine Registry

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Introduction

Spinal replacement procedures have a significant impact on patients' and public health. That is the reason why in 2019 a project started to set out the National Spine Registry as one of the lines of research of the Italian National Implantable Prostheses Registry. Aim of this study is to map the spinal device procedures performed in Italy, considering the results of these analyses as a useful reference for the Registry implementation.

Materials and Methods

The Italian National Hospital Discharge Data (HDD) database was queried from 2001 to 2017 using 45 ICD-9 procedure codes that spinal surgeons had selected. They were relating to arthrodesis, disc procedures without arthrodesis, and procedures on vertebrae without arthrodesis. The trends were measured both in general and for each department of discharge (neurosurgery, orthopaedics and traumatology, other).

Results

During 17 years, the total number of procedures increased by 44.2%. Discharges increased by 38.3% for Neurosurgery, 28.9% for Orthopaedics and Traumatology, and 87.7% for Other departments. The mean patients' age increased from 50.4 years in 2001 to 57.8 years in 2017, while the male percentage on the total of patients decreased from 57% to 49.4%.

Discussion/Conclusion

The increase in spinal procedures and their potential impact on patients' health and safety shows the need for a national spine registry to measure long-term outcomes, and consequently improve the quality of life after spine surgery.

Notes