

Congenital spondylolisthesis Author: Univ. Doz. Dr. Werner Lack

A child with low-grade dysplastic spondylolisthesis will develop a severe progression followinggrowth with high probability!

Symptoms: often already symptomatic in childhood

step L5, prominent sacrum, lumbar hyperlordosis, often scoliosis flexion of knees in hyperextended hips, stiffness of trunk in leg raising-test, low back pain, pseudoradicular sciatics, radicular L5-symptoms, Cauda-symptoms trunk-stiffness in spondyloptosis



Spinopelvic parameters



changes in unbalanced spine Pelvic Incidence significantly increased Pelvic Tilt increased Sacral Slope decreased



Scheme of normal spine-olistesis balanced-olisthesis unbalanced



congenital grade 3-4 spondylolisthesis in MRI



"inverse Napoleons hat-sign"



Special signs of high-grade spondylolisthesis

trapezoid shape of L5 vertebral body, elongation of Pars interarticularis, spondylolysis, dysplastic facet-joints, Spina bifida, dome-shaped sacral plate, disturbance of enchondral ossification apophysis S1



Is reduction necessary ?

as reduction in low-grade spondylo is of less importance, it is very important to reduce high-grade slips to regain the lordosis of L5/S1 as good as possible!

Technique in reduction and stabilization from posterior approach

resection of vertebral arch L5 in toto reduction-pedicle-screws under Neuromonitoring- control pedicle-screws S1 perforate anterior cortical bone neurolysis L5, S1 under Neuromonitoring-control removing disc material totally reduction under distraction and Neuromonitoring intercorporal support and fusion under compression (TLIF, PLIF, AxiaLIF) principle of neurophysiologic surveillance of pedicle-screw-position and nerve-root by Neuromonitoring (neurovision-system)

evoked EMG by a stimulus is used to find motoric changes; corresponding muscle-groups are controlled via surface-electrodes; the complex data are reported computerassisted



removing the L5 lamina in one piece



posterior decompression, reduction and fusion (Hempfing 2010)





Gaines-procedure for spondyloptosis (resection of L5 and reduction of L4 to S1) anterior/retroperitoneal approach preparation of body L5 with cranial and caudal disc removing discs L4/5, L5/S1 stepwise resection of body L5 with pedicles posterior approach removing of arch L5 L5 pedicle screws in L4, S1 reduction of L4 to S1 intercorporal fusion (TLIF, PLIF, AxiaLIF L4/S1 posterior compression



dysplastic spondylolisthesis L5 with osteoarthritis L4/5







4. grade spondylolisthesis in 18y old woman



strut graft L5/S1 from posterior









reduction, intercorporal instrumentation and fusion by AxiaLIF