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## Quality Improvement and Spine Surgery.

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# Quality Improvement and Spine Surgery

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AO Spine North American (AOSNA) is honored to have the ability to present this focused issue on improving quality health care for spine patients. There has been significant efforts and progress in improving global health care. One issue has been the focus of value for health care expenditures. Value can be improved with either decreasing cost or increasing quality ( $V = Q/C$ ). This issue is dedicated to improvements in quality for patient benefits. The issue is subdivided into several sections. First is an overview with 3 articles. Hines et al provide “A Brief History of Quality Improvement in Health Care and Spinal Surgery”; with a clinical overview by Hopkins, “Quality and Clinical Care Development in Spine Surgery—Connecting the Dots: An Expanded Clinical Narrative”; and a more detailed discussion on Spine Surgery by Jiang et al.

The next section focuses on how to improve the process involving spine surgery. Witiw et al evaluate “Ambulatory Surgical Centers: Improving Quality of Operative Spine Care?” Ghobrial et al look at how to improve quality by directing pathways of care in “Implementation of a Spine-Centered Care Pathway at a Regional Academic Spine Center.” This is followed by DeVine et al discussing an “Update on Wrong-Site Spine Surgery.”

“Preoperative Maximization to Reduce Complications in Spinal Surgery” by Maitra et al as the first section right after The Clinical Issues section illustrates the need for homogeneous and consistent patient care. Unfortunately, there are only a limited number of guidelines and these articles add direction to several areas of controversy:

## Anticoagulation and Spine Surgery

*Guilherme B. F. Porto, Jeffrey Wessell, Anthony Alvarado, Paul M. Arnold, Avery L Buchholz*

## Venous Thromboprophylaxis in Spine Surgery

*Anthony M. Alvarado, Guilherme B. F. Porto, Jeffrey Wessell, Avery L Buchholz, Paul M. Arnold*

## Minimizing Blood Loss in Spine Surgery

*Christopher Mikhail, Zachary Pennington, Paul M. Arnold, Darrel Brodke, Jens Chapman, Norman Chutkan, Michael Daubs, John DeVine, Michael Fehlings, Daniel E. Gelb, George Ghobrial, James Harrop, Christian Hoelscher, Fan Jiang, John Knightly, Brian Kwon, Thomas Mroz, Ahmad Nassr, Daniel K. Riew, Lali H. Sekhon, Justin Smith, Geoffrey Striseck, Vincent Traynelis, Jeffrey C. Wang, Michael Weber, Jefferson Wilson, Christopher D. Witiw, Daniel M. Sciubba, Samuel Cho*

## Early Surgery for Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury: Where Are We Now?

*Jefferson R. Wilson, Christopher D. Witiw, Jetan H. Badhiwala, Brian K. Kwon, Michael G. Fehlings, James S. Harrop*

## Surgical Site Infection Prevention Following Spine Surgery

*Ilyas Aleem, Lee Tan, Ahmad Nassr, K. Daniel Riew*

The last section is about where quality-centric care is cutting-edge presently and in the future. Lee et al note how artificial intelligence and computer learning will affect the field in “The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Quality and Safety.” Also, Charalampidis et al discuss “The Use of Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring in Spine Surgery.”

Overall this issue is dedicated to our patients and improving their care and changing from the present volume-driven care to to value based. We hope this will lead to further changes and discussions.

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