

# Microscope use doesn't up infection risk in spine surgery

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(HealthDay)—Use of an operating microscope does not appear to have much impact on risk of infection or operating room times in spine surgery, according to research published in the Oct. 15 issue of *Spine*.

Bryce A. Basques, of the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Conn., and colleagues analyzed data for 23,670 elective spine procedures from the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program database. The effect of [microscope](#) use on risk of infection and operating room time was investigated.

The researchers found that an operating microscope was used in 9.4 percent of the procedures. Operative time (incision to closure) averaged 125.7±82 minutes. Use of an operating microscope was associated with minor increases in preoperative room time (+2.9 minutes), operative time (+13.2 minutes, P

"We did not find [operating room](#) times or infection risk to be significant deterrents for use of an operating microscope during [spine surgery](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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