

The Clinical Risk of Vertebral Artery Injury From Cervical Pedicle Screws Inserted in Degenerative Vertebrae

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After surgery, the positions of the pedicle screws were evaluated using conventional computerized tomography (CT) by the first author (M.N.), who was also a main member of the operation team. An axial image, including the whole length of each screw, was obtained, and the medial and lateral deviation of the screw was classified into 4 grades. Grade 0, no deviation; the screw was contained in the pedicle. Grade 1, deviation less than 2 mm (i.e., less than half of the screw diameter). Grade 2, deviation more than 2 mm and less than 4 mm. Grade 3, deviation more than 4 mm (i.e., complete deviation) (Figure 1). It

