

Module 3: Practical Exercise

Cervical—Laminoplasty and lateral mass screws

Ensure activities undertaken during the practical exercise are relevant to the needs of the participants.

This practical should go over the aims of cervical decompression and stabilization and the anatomical landmarks for lateral mass fixation.

While laminoplasty is not an established practical activity it is a technique that can be well demonstrated using sawbones and is relevant to the learning needs of residents and junior fellows. Some additional resources may be needed for this activity (eg, drill or burr and a spacer) to hold the lamina open once the laminoplasty has been performed.

Learning outcomes

- Identify the anatomical landmarks to perform a laminoplasty and the insertion of lateral mass screws in the cervical spine
- Place C1 lateral mass, C2 pedicle, C2 lamina and C1–2 transarticular screws
- Place lateral mass screws in the cervical spine

Lumbar/thoracic—Pedicle screw insertion in the thoracic and lumbar spine

Go over the landmarks for pedicle screw insertion and the creation of a simple construct for the treatment of degenerative conditions in the lumbar spine, thoracolumbar trauma, and deformity.

Learning outcomes

- Identify the anatomical landmarks related to the placement of thoracic and lumbar pedicle screws
- Place pedicle screws in the thoracic and lumbar spine

Dural repair (This practical activity is currently under development)

It is hoped a simple model will be available in 2014 for demonstration, allowing participants to practice techniques of dural repair.

Learning outcomes

- Outline the principles for the management of a dural tear
- Perform a “water tight” closure of a simulated dural tear