

T-saw Spinous Process–Splitting Laminoplasty for the Management of Multilevel Cervical Myelopathy

Motoya Kobayashi¹, Noriaki Yokogawa¹, Satoru Demura², Satoshi Kato, Yohei Yamada¹, Satoshi Nagatani, Masafumi Kawai, Hiroyuki Tsuchiya¹

¹Kanazawa University, ²Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Kanazawa University

Spinous-process–splitting laminoplasty is a safe and effective procedure for the management of multilevel cervical myelopathy. A symmetrically reconstructed arch prevents the progression of cervical kyphosis. In addition, hemorrhage from the arborizing lateral epidural veins is avoided. However, spinous process-splitting laminoplasty is technically difficult. Because of the high risk of cord injury during sagittal splitting with the use of a burr, this technique is not widely used. The authors of this video developed a safe spinous process–splitting technique that involves the use of a threadwire saw. This technique is safer, simpler, and faster than the traditional method. This video shows the surgical technique for T-saw spinous process–splitting laminoplasty.