

Thoracolumbar Burst

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Traumatic spinal fractures can cause spinal instability with or without neurologic deficits. The majority of such fractures occur at the thoracolumbar junction (T11–L2) which is transition zone in between rigid kyphotic thoracic and mobile lordotic lumbar spine.

Burst fractures account for 30 to 64% of the thoracolumbar spinal fractures. Generally burst fractures have been defined as fractures that involve the anterior and middle spinal columns according to the Denis three-column spinal model. After Dennis classification, countless classifications have been defined by many authors to determine fracture type and treatment modality. Despite an overwhelming amount of descriptive and clinical studies addressing traumatic thoracolumbar burst fractures, a significant controversy surrounds the optimum management strategies.

The aim of this presentation is to summarize the classification and management strategies of thoracolumbar burst fractures with level of evidence 2 or greater.