

Anterior thoracic corpectomy

While several approaches have been suggested for performing a transthoracic corpectomy of the thoracolumbar spine, the steep learning curve and high risk of operative morbidity often dissuades its use clinically. As a result, posterior approaches have been more frequently used, though transthoracic approaches often allow for improved access for more complete decompression of the spinal cord. Additionally, the transthoracic approach allows for more complete removal of vertebral body lesions along with better access for reconstruction of the anterior column. Here we describe a distinct nine-step thoracolumbar corpectomy technique via a transthoracic approach. We include a description of one patient with one-year follow-up to further illustrate the surgical approach and relevant surgical anatomy. We have used this technique for maximal bi-pedicular decompression afforded by the lateral approach. We discuss key anatomical considerations, perioperative techniques and potential complications of the operation. The presented nine-step transthoracic corpectomy technique is a safe method for providing adequate neurological decompression and vertebral body tumor removal ¹⁾.

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Puvanesarajah V, Lina IA, Liauw JA, Lo SF, Elder BD, Wolinsky JP, Bydon A, Sciubba DM, Gokaslan ZL, Witham TF. Systematic Approach for Anterior Corpectomy through a Transthoracic Exposure. Turk Neurosurg. 2016;26(4):646-52. doi: 10.5137/1019-5149.JTN.15271-15.1. PubMed PMID: 27400115.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:55**

