

En Bloc Spondylectomy

En Bloc Spondylectomy vs. Posterior Vertebral Column Resection

Definitions

En Bloc Spondylectomy (EBS): Surgical removal of an entire vertebral segment (vertebral body, pedicles, and posterior elements) in one piece. The primary goal is to achieve oncologic margins in spinal tumors.

Posterior Vertebral Column Resection (pVCR): Removal of one or more vertebral segments through a posterior-only approach, typically in a piecemeal fashion, to correct severe spinal deformities.

Comparison Table

Feature	En Bloc Spondylectomy	Posterior Vertebral Column Resection
Main Goal	Oncologic resection with margins	Correction of severe deformity
Type of Resection	One-piece (en bloc)	Fragmented (piecemeal)
Indications	Primary or metastatic spinal tumors	Congenital kyphosis, post-traumatic deformity, scoliosis
Surgical Approach	Anterior, posterior, or combined (360°)	Posterior-only
Oncologic Application	Yes	No
Deformity Correction	Limited	Primary goal

Key Differences

- EBS is aimed at curative treatment of vertebral tumors with wide margins.
- pVCR is used for severe, rigid spinal deformities requiring vertebral resection and spinal cord decompression.
- EBS often involves combined approaches, while pVCR is performed solely via a posterior approach.

Conclusion

Although both involve vertebral resection, **they are not equivalent**. Each serves a **distinct purpose** with different surgical techniques and goals.

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