

Epidural free fat graft

The use of an autogenous free [fat graft](#) in the [epidural space](#) has been employed in an attempt to reduce post-op epidural [scar](#) formation. Opinion varies widely as to the effectiveness, some feel it is helpful, others feel it actually exacerbates scarring ¹⁾. In some patients, no evidence of the graft will be found on reoperation years later. The fat graft can very rarely be a cause of nerve root compression ²⁾ or cauda equina syndrome ³⁾ within the first few days post-op, and there is a case report of compression 6 years following surgery ⁴⁾

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Dunsker SB. Comment on Cobanoglu S, et al.: Complication of Epidural Fat Graft in Lumbar Spine Disc Surgery: Case Report. Surg Neurol. 1995; 44:481-482

²⁾

Cabezudo JM, Lopez A, Bacci F. Symptomatic Root Compression by a Free Fat Transplant After Hemilaminectomy: Case Report. J Neurosurg. 1985; 63:633-635

³⁾

Prusick VD, Lint DS, Bruder J. Cauda Equina Syndrome as a Complication of Free Epidural Fat-Grafting. J Bone Joint Surg. 1988; 70A:1256-1258

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Cobanoglu S, Imer M, Ozyilmaz F, et al. Complication of Epidural Fat Graft in Lumbar Spine Disc Surgery: Case Report. Surg Neurol. 1995; 44:479-482

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