

Iliac crest bone graft harvest donor site morbidity

A frequently reported complication of [autologous bone grafting](#) from the [iliac crest](#) is post-operative pain at the donor site, which has been reported to result in up to 22% additional morbidity ¹⁾.

Although a more elegant needle technique has reduced this percentage, at 2 weeks post-operatively 12% of patients still has persisting complaints of pain at the donor site ²⁾.

Other complications include wound hematoma, infection, pelvic fracture and nerve palsy at the donor site region ³⁾.

An alternative to prevent this morbidity is the use of [allografts](#) ^{4) 5) 6)}.

Unfortunately, allografts are expensive, incorporate more slowly and carry the potential risk of disease transmission ⁷⁾.

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^{3) 7)}

Jacobs WC, Anderson PG, Limbeek J, Willems PC, Pavlov P. Single or double-level anterior interbody fusion techniques for cervical degenerative disc disease. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2004 Oct 18;(4):CD004958. Review. Update in: Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2011;(1):CD004958. PubMed PMID: 15495130.

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