

# McCormack Load-Sharing Classification

## Synonyms

McCormack-Gaines load-sharing classification, Load sharing classification of burst fractures.

## Source Article

McCormack T, Karaikovic E, Gaines RW. The load-sharing classification of spine fractures. Spine 1994;19:1741-4.

## Description

A point system was developed in 1994 by McCormack and Gaines to describe the spinal injury. The load-sharing classification grades the extent of vertebral body comminution, the amount of fracture displacement, and the amount of correction of kyphotic deformity.

## Scoring Method

According to authors, using this point system, fractures with mild comminution totaling 6 points or less can be successfully repaired from the posterior approach with pedicle screw implants. Severely comminuted fractures scoring 7 points or more must be repaired by an anterior approach with vertebrectomy and strut grafting.

## Load sharing classification of burst fractures

References McCormack T, Karaikovic E, Gaines RW. The load-sharing classification of spine fractures. Spine 1994;19:1741-4.

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