

Occipitothoracic fusion

Dysphagia after Occipitothoracic fusion is caused by the narrowing of oropharyngeal space due to direct compression from the anteriorly protruded mid-cervical spine ¹⁾.

Occipitothoracic fusion for rheumatoid destructive cervical lesions can be effective in improving neurologic deficit if performed while patients can still sit ²⁾

The use of 3D technology has greatly facilitated the performance of the occipitothoracic fixation and could, in the future, contribute to safer pediatric spinal fixation procedures ³⁾.

Matsuyama et al. performed occipitothoracic fusion surgery in RA patients with the destruction of the cervical spine. Preoperative halo-vest was very effective for improving the neurologic status, for the general condition, and for an optimal sagittal alignment. Occipitothoracic fusion using unit rods gave satisfactory long-term clinical results compared with the prognosis of patients in whom the disease follows its natural course ⁴⁾

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