Thoracolumbar spine fracture epidemiology

see Thoracolumbar spine fracture

According to statistics, fractures of the thoracolumbar region (Th11-Th12-L1) account for almost 90% of all vertebral fractures and, moreover, approximately 50% of fractures are compression fractures of the Th12 or L1 vertebra [1) 2) 3)]

There are approximately 15,000 Thoracolumbar spine fractures each year in the U.S., and nearly 1/3 of these injuries are associated with a neurologic injury.

The majority of thoracolumbar injuries occur at the T11-L1 level, which is the transitional zone between the relatively immobile thoracic spine and flexible lumbar spine. A low-energy injury is more likely to cause an injury to the intervertebral disc, yet a high-energy trauma such as a motor vehicle accident or fall is more likely to fracture the bone. Thoracolumbar spine fractures and dislocations are typically classified according to their injury/fracture pattern, as described by Denis.

see Thoracolumbar burst fracture.

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