

Instrumented [spinal arthrodesis](#) using rigid [rods](#) is currently the most widely used treatment for [degenerative diseases](#) of the [lumbar spine](#), particularly if unresponsive to conservative care. However, the elastic modulus of [titanium](#), the main metallic material used in [lumbar fusion](#) procedures, is much greater than that of bone, which may significantly change the physiological distribution of the load at the instrumented vertebral segments [1\)](#) [2\)](#) [3\)](#)

[1\)](#)

Kurtz SM, Devine JN. PEEK biomaterials in trauma, orthopedic, and spinal implants. *Biomaterials*. 2007;28(32):4845-4869.

[2\)](#)

Narayan P, Haid RW, Subach BR, Comey CH, Rodts GE. Effect of spinal disease on successful arthrodesis in lumbar pedicle screw fixation. *J. Neurosurg.* 2002;97(3 Suppl):277-280.

[3\)](#)

Ponnappan RK, Serhan H, Zarda B, Patel R, Albert T, Vaccaro AR. Biomechanical evaluation and comparison of polyetheretherketone rod system to traditional titanium rod fixation. *Spine J.* 2009;9(3):263-267.

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