

Retrospective cohort study of the prevalence of lumbo sacral transitional vertebra in a wide and well-represented population

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Aim: The aim of this study to determine the prevalence of lumbosacral transitional vertebra (LSTV) in a well-represented general population.

Methods: For a retrospective cohort study abdominal radiographs of adult subjects were queried with clear visibility of the vertebral body articulation of the last rib, all lumbar transverse processes, and complete sacral wings. Exclusion criteria included any radiologic evidence of previous lumbosacral surgery that would block our view. A total of 6200 abdominal films were reviewed, and 3607 were identified as being suitable for the measurement of the desired parameters.

Results: A total of 3607 subjects were identified as eligible for the study and 683 (18.9%) were classified as positive for a lumbosacral transitional vertebra. The prevalence of sacralization and lumbarization was found as 17.2% and 1.7%, respectively. The average age at the time of the study was 39.5 ± 15.2 years (18-86 years).

Conclusions: As a result of different opinions, LSTV retains its controversial status. Our prevalence study of the general population will provide assistance for resolution of the controversy. Prevalence studies of the general population with a wide participation will shed light on comparative studies.

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