

DEVICE FOR SURGICAL DISPLACEMENT OF VERTEBRAE

This invention relates to surgical displacement of vertebrae, which is applied in surgical treatment of spondylolisthesis. Literature data indicate that sliding of vertebrae occurs on average in 10% of patients treated because of back pain. This pathology may cause a significant disability, both among the youth and adults. Surgical treatment of spondylolisthesis is provided when neurological symptoms and/or pain occur, or even increase, even though conservative treatment had been previously administered. Until now in medical practice, the most commonly used treatment has consisted in bringing the spine to spinal fixation by bone fusion on the sliding level. The spondylodesis itself is not always a sufficient means and does not bring positive results in the form of: restoration of proportions in the height of disc space, thereby reconstruction of the correct geometry, reduction of posture deformation, removal of pain discomfort, restoration of biomechanical balance. To achieve all of the above mentioned benefits, decompression of nerve structures and reposition of the displaced vertebra is essential.

Devices for spondylolisthesis reposition are known; most of all they are based on different kinds of pulling screws or special repositioning constructions, whose principal feature is a considerably large number of elements and surgical difficulties resulting from the complexity of the system removing this pathology.

Their application often involves extensive surgical actions, which significantly increase patient's burden and can lead to intra- and postoperative complications.

An implant, apparatus and a method for spondylolisthesis correction are known from the patent application WO 96/40016. The implant is in the form of one-element cage intended for blocking the dislocation of vertebrae, whereas the correction itself is performed with a specially designed apparatus introduced into the intervertebral space, including a longitudinal body composed of two elements, which by moving along each other, align the dislocated vertebrae. The disadvantage of this solution is the possibility of losing reposition during replacement of the corrective apparatus with the locking cage.

An apparatus and a method for the realignment and stabilization of adjacent vertebrae are known from the patent application US 2008/0319481. The implant has two halves which are interlocked so that they can slide horizontally with respect to each other. The

movement of the implant halves and their respective positions are controlled by a screw set within the implant. The implant includes radial anchors which fit into alignment slots made in the misaligned vertebra. The screw set in the implant is used to advance the halves of the implant which in turn move the misaligned vertebrae back into correct positions. The solution provides for the correction of spondylolisthesis only by means of using the anterior surgical approach, which due to the possibility of disturbing important anatomic structures situated there, seriously hinders and sometimes prevents surgical activities and may pose considerable risk to the patient related i.a. to the prolonged duration of surgery. Another disadvantage of this solution is also the necessity of making an incision - with the use of a special instrument - for slots in the vertebral body for anchors. Yet another drawback is the complicated and difficult to control procedure of introducing the implant into the interbody space, requiring adapting its position to the slots prepared earlier. The screw gear employed allows movement only in one direction – in the direction of the reposition of dislocated vertebrae. As there is no reverse mechanism, intraoperative correction and implant's removal are prevented, resulting in patient risk. Guiding employed in the form of a dove tail does not have any protection against locking of the shift due to the fact that the cooperating implant halves become distant from each other as a result of the elbowing action of the screw. Fixation of vertebrae position and locking of the implant itself require using additional means in the form of a nut and an additional fixing plate, and this increases the number of implant elements and moreover, irritates tissues.

An interbody spacer is known from the patent application US 2007/0123989 intended for surgical treatment of spondylolisthesis. The spacer is composed of two halves and a locking screw gear, installed using the anterior approach between two vertebrae and anchored in the vertebral body with bone screws in a variant connected with a reduction plate. In the disclosed embodiment, correction of spondylolisthesis is made by manipulating the adjusting mechanism in such a way that the first and the other half move along each other, thus aligning the vertebrae. The locking screw gear may have a central screw, which at rotation can move one of the halves forward or backward. In one embodiment of the screw gear, it can be a central rail allowing the movement of both halves forward and backward, and the mechanism can be secured by a lateral blockage. The adjusting mechanism employed does not offer the possibility of moving the halves

along each other in opposite directions. Another disadvantage of this solution is the mechanism of anchoring the interbody spacer in the vertebral body, which does not provide a secure fixation during reposition and causes spacer's elements to project from vertebral margins after reduction of pathology, thus endangering biological structures situated in this area.

Free of the above mentioned inconveniences is a device comprising an implant for surgical displacement of vertebrae, which is composed of two parts co-working in a sliding way : a sliding part with an internal thread and a carrier part, and also a driving element with an external thread which is located between the parts. According to the invention, the driving element is provided with a head, whereas the sliding part of the device is equipped with a threaded guideline cooperating with the driving element and a seat of a diameter corresponding with the head's diameter and length greater than the head's length, and the carrier part has a seat of a diameter and length corresponding with the head's diameter and length. Furthermore, the sliding part and the carrier part are provided with cooperating shaped elements, which form a lock preventing separation of both parts in the direction perpendicular to the device longitudinal axis during performance of corrective actions. The lock is formed by at least one element, which is located in the sliding part and one element in the carrier part. In one embodiment of the device, the element of the lock located in the sliding part of the device is in the form of a cylinder. In another embodiment, the shaped element is in the form of a fragment of a cuboid.

The threaded guideline in the sliding part and carrier part is in the form of a sleeve. Preferably, this sleeve can be open longitudinally.

The external surface of the sliding part and carrier part is provided with drive-anchoring elements, which are in the form of shelves provided with resistance surfaces and at least one shaped cutting knife. In one embodiment of the device, the drive-anchoring elements are provided with gaps. In another embodiment, at least one shelf is articulated with a shaped seat on the external surface of the device. Preferably, the movable shelf is provided with a resistance projection. The drive-anchoring elements, which constitute the outfit of the external part of the device's sliding part, are located at an angle of 0 up to 100°, and the drive-anchoring elements of the carrier part are situated at an angle of 0 up to 100° in relation to the external surface.

The device for the treatment of spondylolisthesis by surgical displacement of vertebrae according to the invention is characterized in that it has a simple and compact construction limiting the area of surgical intervention, thus invasiveness of the procedure is decreased. It enables surgeries to be performed both using the posterior and anterior approach, depending on medical needs and recommendations. At the same time, it ensures decompression of compressed nerve structures, restoration of correct anatomical proportions and final blocking of the whole system, preventing secondary slippage without any additional accompanying elements, and this in turn decreases the risk related to the necessity of cooperation of all the elements of the stabilizing system.

The construction of the threaded guideline of the motion driving element according to the invention secures the drive-repositioning system against blocking, thus increasing the safety of the displacement of vertebrae being performed.

A simple and safe seating of the implant in the interbody space shortens the duration of surgery and minimizes patient's burden, increasing his safety. The construction of the implant satisfies biomechanical requirements for stabilization and is adapted to the anatomical shape of the interbody space, which ensures effectiveness of treatment of patients at any age.

The invention is disclosed in examples of implementation in the accompanying figures, where fig. 1 illustrates the device in a section with a visible driving element and drive-anchoring elements in the form of shelves equipped with shaped cutting knives and with a lock; fig. 2 shows the device in an arrangement with a threaded guideline in the shape of a sleeve and with drive-anchoring elements in the form of uniform shelves; fig. 3 illustrates the sliding part with a threaded guideline in the form of an open sleeve and with a shelf provided with gaps; fig. 4 shows an embodiment of the device with drive-anchoring elements in the form of movable shelves on the sliding part and the carrying part.

The device presented in fig. 1 is composed of a sliding part 1 with a threaded guideline 2, a carrier part 3 and driving element 4 with an external thread provided with a head 5. Sliding part 1 and carrying part 3 of the device are provided on the external surface with drive-anchoring elements 6. Drive-anchoring elements 6 on device's sliding part 1 are in the form of shelves provided with resistance surfaces and shaped cutting knives 7. Sliding part 1 is also provided with at least two shaped elements 8 in the form of cylinder's fragments constituting together with a shaped element 9 in device's carrier part 3 a lock,

preventing their separation in the perpendicular direction to the longitudinal axis of the device. Head 5 of the driving element 4 is provided with manipulative elements 10 assigned for cooperation with the installation instrument.

The device shown in an arrangement in fig. 2 is provided on the external surface with drive-anchoring elements 6 in the form of uniform shelves. Carrier part 3 of the device is provided with a cylindrical seat 11, shaped element 9 being an element of the lock and longitudinal gap 12 corresponding by shape with the threaded guideline 2 cooperating with it. Cylindrical seat 11 cooperating with the head 5 of the driving element 4 has got the diameter and length corresponding with the diameter and length of head 5. Sliding part 1 of the device is provided with a cylindrical seat 13 with diameter corresponding with the diameter of head 5 and length longer than head's 5 length and with the shaped element 8 being an element of the lock in the form of cuboid's fragment. Threaded guideline 2 is in the form of a sleeve.

In another embodiment presented in fig. 3, threaded guideline 2 in the sliding part 1 is in the form of a longitudinally opened sleeve, shaped projection 8 in the form of cylinder's fragment, and the external surface of the sliding part 1 is provided with the drive-anchoring element 6 with gaps 14.

In the embodiment shown in fig. 4, the device has got two drive-anchoring elements 6 articulated with a shaped seat 15 on the external surface of the sliding part 1 and carrier part 3 of the device. One of drive-anchoring elements 6 is provided with a resistance projection 16 preventing uncontrolled rotation of the shelf.

Claims

1. A device for a surgical displacement of vertebrae, containing two parts cooperating in a sliding way: a sliding part with an internal thread and carrier part, and also a driving element with an external thread located between them, where: a driving element (4) is provided with a head (5), the sliding part (1) of the device is provided with a threaded guideline (2) cooperating with the driving element (4), and a seat (14) of the diameter corresponding with the diameter of head (5), and with length larger than head's (5) length, while the carrier part (3) of the device has got a cylindrical seat (12) with the diameter and length corresponding with head's (5) diameter and length, furthermore the sliding part (1) and carrier part (3) are provided with cooperating elements: at least one shaped element (8) and shaped element (9) constituting a lock preventing separation of the parts (1, 3) in the perpendicular direction to the longitudinal axis of the device.
2. The device according to claim 1 is characterized in that the threaded guideline (2) in the sliding part (1) of the device is in the form of a sleeve.
3. The device according to claim 2 is characterized in that the threaded guideline (2) in the sliding part (1) of the device is in the form of a longitudinally open sleeve.
4. The device according to claim 1 is characterized in that the shaped element (8) is in the form of a cylinder's fragment.
5. The device according to claim 1 is characterized in that the shaped element (8) is in the form of a cuboid's fragment.
6. The device according to claim 1 is characterized in that the carrier part (3) and sliding part (1) are provided with drive-anchoring elements (6) on the external surface.
7. The device according to claim 6 is characterized in that drive-anchoring elements (6) are in the form of shelves provided with resistance areas and at least one shaped cutting knife (7)
8. The device according to claim 6 is characterized in that drive-anchoring elements (6) contain gaps (14).
9. The device according to claim 7 and 8 is characterized in that at least one drive-anchoring element (6) is articulated with a shaped seat (15) on the external

surface of the device and moreover, it is provided with a resistance projection (16).

10. The device according to claim 7 is characterized in that drive-anchoring elements (6) constituting the outfit of the external surface of the sliding part (1) of the device are located at an angle (α) of 0° up to 110° , and drive-anchoring elements (6) of the carrier part (3) of the device are arranged at an angle (β) of 0° up to 110° with relation to the external surface.