



최 석 진

인하의대

## IOM for spinal surgery

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Neurological deficit is a catastrophic complication in spinal surgery, with tremendous consequences from both medical and socio-economical perspectives. Recently, many surgeons have been using intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring (IOM) in spinal surgery for reducing the risk of permanent nerve damage and identifying risky maneuvers that can lead to neurological injury. The IOM team is composed of neurosurgeon, neurophysiologist, anesthesiologist, and monitoring technologist, and successful IOM requires close cooperation between them. Several established technologies are available and combined motor and somatosensory evoked potentials are considered mandatory for practical IOM. Although it seems to have positive effects in identifying neurological deficits, it may increase surgical time and costs, and limit the use of anesthetics medication, or may be unnecessary in low risk procedures. Herein, we briefly review the basic principles of the electrophysiological methods employed in IOM for spinal surgery, and further discuss two interesting cases.

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