Spine Wars: The Lessons of YODA

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Feel the Force
–Master Yoda

With this editorial message, I would like to encourage as many of our global interdisciplinary readers of ~10,000—and moreover, PubMed readers—to pull the referenced articles below, and after privately reading them, discuss them in your journal clubs, grand rounds, and scientific meetings. The implications of the readings relate to how we conduct our evidence evaluations as presented in published medical literature. Without wanting to sound overly dramatic, I do believe that we may have witnessed with these publications a cataclysmic change in the way prospective clinical science and trials in general—specifically, in spine—will be conducted and reported in the future.

The topic of bone morphogenic protein has surely been a most contentious subject. Questions of patient safety (cancer risk, heterotopic bone formation, neuritis, dysphagia, and others) have been raised and the actual likelihood of these possible complications have been previously discussed here in EBSJ

References


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