SLIDING-GROWING ROD TECHNIQUE FOR MANAGEMENT OF EARLY-ONSET SCOLIOSIS

Meric ENERCAN, MD
Mutlu COBANOGLU, MD
Sinan KAHRAMAN, MD
Bahadır H. GOKCEN, MD
Sinan YILAR, MD
Erden ERTURER, MD
Cagatay OZTURK, MD
Azmi HAMZAOGLU, MD

Istanbul Spine Center
Florence Nightingale Hospital
Istanbul-TURKEY
### Paper #3 SLIDING-GROWING ROD TECHNIQUE FOR MANAGEMENT OF EARLY-ONSET SCOLIOSIS

**Author**

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<td>Meric ENERCAN</td>
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<td>Mutlu COBANOGLU</td>
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**8th International Congress on Early Onset Scoliosis and Growing Spine**

ICEOS
The main goal of treatment is to obtain and maintain curve correction while simultaneously preserving spinal, trunk, and lung growth.

Growing rods have become increasingly popular in the treatment of early-onset scoliosis.
Problems with traditional growing rods systems

- Correction of the deformity will be achieved through only pure distractive forces between proximal and distal anchors.

- Because there are no apical and intermediate anchors along the main curve, it cannot control rotational deformity, anterior spinal growth continues and deformity progresses.
Problems with traditional growing rods systems

- Curve control is especially difficult in kyphoscoliosis.
- Curve control is also difficult in sagittal plane.
- Requires repeated lengthening procedures.
- T1-S1 length achieved after every lengthening procedure decreases with each subsequent lengthening and over time (Law of diminishing).
- Prolonged instrumentation and repeated lengthenings can result with autofusion.
PURPOSE

- Using apical and intermediate anchors

- ✓ provide better correction and control of the main curve in both coronal and sagittal plane,
- ✓ prevent progression of deformity,
- ✓ decrease implant-related complications,
- ✓ decrease number of repeated lengthenings,
- ✓ decrease rate of spontaneous fusion
- ✓ can be performed with regular instrumentation system,

*We tried to develop a dynamic fixation system instead of static fixation system.*
After skin-subcutaneous dissection, placement of polyaxial pedicle screws into the strategic vertebrae under fluoroscopic guidance with muscle sparing technique.

Recently robotic assistance is being used to decrease radiation exposure related to floroscopy.

Depending on the size of the child, it can be performed with any cervical or pediatric instrumentation system.
Use of skull (J-Tongue) – femoral traction application for the initial procedure provides more flexibility, decreases the need for forceful correction maneuvers on immature spine and prevents possible implant failures.
✓ Giving the proper contour to the rods and placement of proximal and distal rods.
✓ Deformity correction can be made with *cantilever correction maneuver with double rods and domino connectors.*
Domino connectors were placed generally at the lumbar region.

- Fixation of most proximal and most distal screws
- The rest of the screws have non-locked set-screws
MATERIAL & METHODS

✓ 11 (6F/5M) patients with early onset spinal deformities with a mean age of 5.8 (3-10) were evaluated.

✓ Preop, postop, f/up standing AP/L images with EOS were reviewed for radiological data.

✓ The results of patients treated with this technique for early onset spinal deformities with > 1 year follow-up was evaluated with respect to:

   (1) curve correction;

   (2) spinal length achieved;

   (3) complications;

   (4) number of procedures performed with the new approach.
The mean follow-up period was 14.8 months (12-19 months).

- Preop (MT) curve of 58.7° (38°-89°) → 24.5° (5°-59°)
- Preop (TL/L) curve of 43.4° (12°-88°) → 16.4° (3°-54°)
- Preop (TK) of 35.1° (4°-66°) → 29.4° (20°-46°)
- Preop (LL) of 55.3° (4°-89°) → 55.7° (31°-70°)
RESULTS

✓ The mean increase in length was 1.14 mm (0.7-1.41 mm) per month.

✓ The mean increase in T1-S1 height was 1.28 mm per month.

✓ The mean number of pedicles screws placed segments were 13.6 (12-16).

✓ No patient had neurological impairments.

✓ There was no rod breakages or other implant failure and wound problems treated without surgery.

✓ The most common postop radiological finding is dislodgement of non-locked set screws mainly at the apical region (in 3 patients).

✓ This modification prevented 22 repeated planned lengthening procedures.
SG, F, 6Y

- Increase in length was 1.12 mm per month.
- T1-S1 height was 1.63 mm per month

Average 3.1 mm in three months
Increase in length was 1.03 mm per month.

T1-S1 height was 1.82 mm per month

Average 2.45 mm in three months
- Increase in length was 1.31 mm per month.
- T1-S1 height was 1.49 mm per month
TrUGA showed more than 70% flexibility.

This patient was treated with sliding–growing rod technique instead of apical vertebral resection.
CONCLUSION

✓ Our new treatment strategy provides that the screws in apical, intermediate and strategic vertebra controlled the curve, prevents progression, maintains rotational stability and allows continuation of trunk growth.

✓ Depending on the size of the child, it can be performed with any regular instrumentation system.
CONCLUSION

✓ Sliding-growing rod technique is a dynamic fixation technique which prevents multiple lengthening procedures.

✓ Short term results showed that sliding-growing rod technique works and allows spinal growth with low complication rate.

✓ Larger series and longer follow-up will provide more data about this system.

✓ Robotic assistance for pedicle fixation will decrease radiation exposure related to floroscopy.
THANK YOU!