

A Patient-Specific Approach to Alignment & Proximal Junctional Kyphosis Risk in Adult Spinal Deformity Patients

Jeff Hills, MD

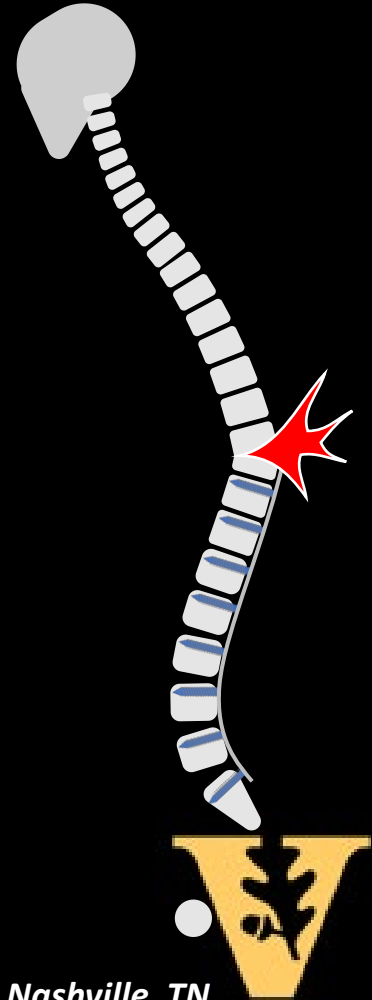
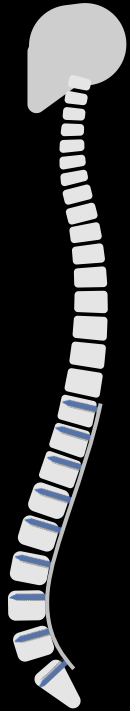
UT Health San Antonio

Co-Authors: Benjamin Weisenthal, MD

John Wanner, MD

Jackie Pennings, PhD

Byron Stephens, MD



Current Understanding of PJK and Risk for PJK



PJK Rate 10-40%

Spine Deformity
 A Comprehensive Review of Complication Rates After Surgery for Adult Deformity: A Reference for Informed Consent
 Daniel M. Sciubba, MD^{a,*}, Alp Yurter, BS^a, Justin S. Smith, MD, PhD^b, Michael P. Kelly, MD^c, Justin K. Scheer, BS^d, C. Rory Goodwin, MD, PhD^e, Virginie Lafage, PhD^f, Robert A. Hart, MD^g, Shay Bess, MD^h, Khaled Kebaish, MDⁱ, Frank Schwab, MD^j, Christopher I. Shaffrey, MD^k, Christopher P. Ames, MD^l, The International Spine Study Group (ISSG)

Proximal Junctional Kyphosis and Failure After Spinal Deformity Surgery
 A Systematic Review of the Literature as a Background to Classification Development
 Darryl Lau, MD,* Aaron J. Clark, MD, PhD,* Justin K. Scheer, BS,† Michael D. Daubs, MD,‡ Jeffrey D. Coe, MD,§ Kenneth J. Paonessa, MD,¶ Michael O. LaGrone, MD,|| Michael D. Kasten, MD,** Rodrigo A. Amaral, MD,†† Per D. Trobisch, MD,‡‡ Jung-Hee Lee, MD,§§ Daniel Fabris-Monterumici, MD,¶¶ Anand, MD,||| Andrew K. Cree, MD,*** Robert A. Hart, MD,††† Lloyd A. Hey, MD, MS,‡‡‡ Christopher P. Ames, MD,* and the SRS Adult Spinal Deformity Committee

What Factors Predict the Risk of Proximal Junctional Failure in the Long Term, Demographic, Surgical, or Radiographic?
 Results From a Time-dependent ROC Curve
 Jingyan Yang, MHS,^{*†} Marc Khalife, MD,[‡] Renaud Lafage, MS,^{*} Han Jo Kim, MD,^{*} Justin Smith, MD,[§] Christopher I. Shaffrey, MD,[§] Douglas C. Burton, MD,[¶] Christopher P. Ames, MD,[¶] Gregory M. Mundis Jr., MD,^{**} Richard Hostin, MD,^{††} Shay Bess, MD,^{‡‡} Eric O. Klineberg, MD,^{‡‡} Robert A. Hart, MD,^{§§} Frank J. Schwab, MD,^{*} and Virginie Lafage, PhD^{*}, International Spine Study Group (ISSG)

Spine DEFORMITY
 Age-Adjusted Alignment Goals Have the Potential to Reduce PJK
 Renaud Lafage, MS,* Frank Schwab, MD,* Steve Glassman, MD,† Shay Bess, MD,‡ Bradley Harris, JD,‡ Justin Sheer, MS,§ Robert Hart, MD,§ Breton Line, BSME,§ Jensen Henry, BS,‡ Doug Burton, MD,** Hanjo Kim, MD,* Eric Klineberg, MD,†† Christopher Ames, MD,†† and Virginie Lafage, PhD,* International Spine Study Group (ISSG)

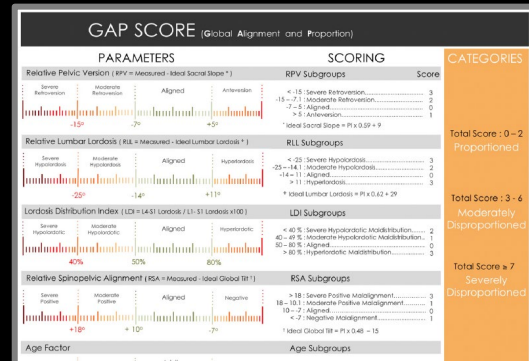
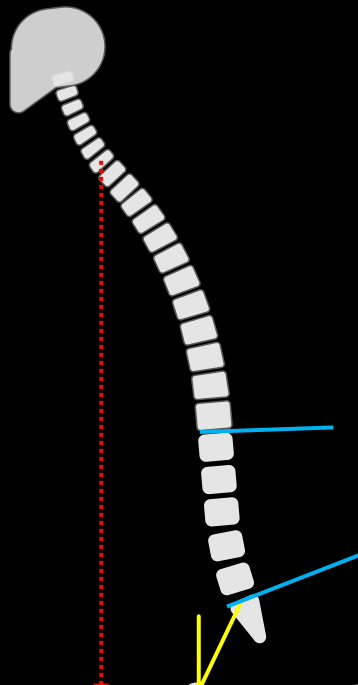
Orientation of the Upper-most Instrumented Segment Influences Proximal Junctional Disease Following Adult Spinal Deformity Surgery
 Renaud Lafage, MS,* Breton G. Line, MD,† Sachin Gupta, MD,‡ Barthelemy Liabaud, MD,* Frank Schwab, MD,* Justin S. Smith, MD,§ Jeffrey L. Gum, MD,¶ Christopher P. Ames, MD,|| Richard Hostin, MD,** Gregory M. Mundis Jr., MD,†† Han Jo Kim, MD,‡‡ Shay Bess, MD,‡‡ Eric Klineberg, MD,§§ and Virginie Lafage, PhD*, International Spine Study Group (ISSG)^{¶¶}

Effective Prevention of Proximal Junctional Failure in Adult Spinal Deformity Surgery Requires a Combination of Surgical Implant Prophylaxis and Avoidance of Sagittal Alignment Overcorrection
 Breton G. Line, BS,* Shay Bess, MD,* Renaud Lafage, BS,† Virginie Lafage, PhD,‡ Frank Schwab, MD,‡ Christopher Ames, MD,‡ Han Jo Kim, MD,‡ Michael Kelly, MD,§ Munish Gupta, MD,§ Douglas Burton, MD,§ Robert Hart, MD,|| Eric Klineberg, MD,** Khaled Kebaish, MD,†† Richard Hostin, MD,†† Gregory Mundis, MD,§§ Robert Eastlack, MD,§§ Christopher Shaffrey, MD,§§ and Justin S. Smith, MD, PhD^{¶¶}, International Spine Study Group

Risk Factors Commonly Reported:

- Age & frailty
- Osteoporosis
- Implants
- Degree of Deformity Correction/Surgical Alignment

What is the Optimal Sagittal Alignment?



Sagittal Modifiers

PI minus LL
 0 : within 10°
 + : moderate 10-20°
 ++ : marked >20°

Global Alignment
 0 : SVA < 4cm
 + : SVA 4 to 9.5cm
 ++ : SVA > 9.5cm

Pelvic Tilt
 0 : PT<20°
 + : PT 20-30°
 ++ : PT>30°

TABLE 1. Ideal Age-Specific Alignment Criteria

Age Group (yr)	PT (°)	PI-LL (°)	SVA (mm)
≤35	11.0	-10.5	-30.5
35-44	15.4	-4.6	-5.5
45-54	18.8	0.5	15.1
55-64	22.0	5.8	35.8
65-74	25.1	10.5	54.5
≥74	28.8	17.0	79.3

LL indicates lumbar lordosis; PT, pelvic incidence; SVA, sagittal vertical axis.

PT OFFSET

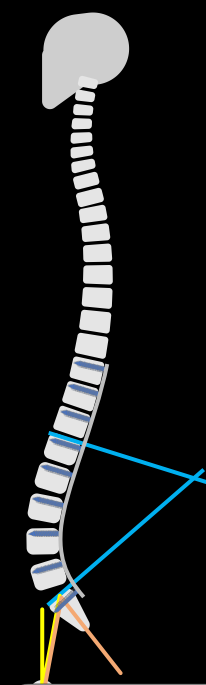
<40	40-65	≥65
<40	40-65	≥65

PI-LL OFFSET

<40	40-65	≥65
<40	40-65	≥65

SVA OFFSET

<40	40-65	≥65
<40	40-65	≥65



Classify Alignment as:

Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2020 Mar 19. doi: 10.1097/BRS.0000000000003500. [Epub ahead of print]

Identification of Predictive Factors for Mechanical Complications Surgery: A Multi-Institutional Retrospective Study.

Kawabata A¹, Yoshi T¹, Sakai K², Hirai T¹, Yuasa M¹, Inose H¹, Utagawa K¹, Hashimoto J¹, Matsukura Y¹, Mizuno K³, Satoh S⁴, Kazuyuki F⁴, Tomizawa S⁵, Arai Y², Shindo S³, Okawa A¹.

Abstract
STUDY DESIGN: A retrospective multicenter observational study.
OBJECTIVE: To investigate correction surgeries that were performed in relatively aged patients and their predictive factors.
SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND DATA: The risk factors associated with MCs have not yet been established.
METHODS: We retrospectively reviewed 230 surgically treated ASD patients with an average age of 65.5 years. ASD caused by vertebral fractures were excluded. The minimum follow-up was two years. Postoperative kyphosis, distal junction kyphosis, pseudoarthrosis, rod breakage, and vertebral fracture were defined as MC. The MC (+) group and patients without MC (the MC (-) group). Radiographic parameters were measured preoperatively and immediately after surgery. The SRS-Schwab ASD classification and global alignment and proportion were measured.

202 Patients:
SRS-Schwab Classification: not predictive
GAP score: not predictive

Ability of the Global Alignment and Mechanical Failure Following ASD Surgery—Validation in 149 Patients

Tanvir Johanning Bari, MD^{a,*}, Søren Ohrt-Nissen, MSc^b, Benny Dahl, MD, PhD, DMSc^b, Marten van den Broek, MD, PhD, DMSc^b

^aSpine Unit, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, University Hospital of Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany
^bDepartment of Orthopedics and Scoliosis Surgery, Texas Children's Hospital at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA
 Received 4 June 2018; revised 27 July 2018;

Abstract
Study Design: Retrospective analysis of prospectively collected data.
Objectives: To validate the Global Alignment and Proportion (GAP) score in ASD patients.
Summary of Background Data: Surgical treatment for ASD is associated with mechanical complications. To improve prediction of mechanical complications, the GAP score was developed. The assumption that not all patients would benefit from the same fixed morphological parameter that greatly influences the sagittal curves of the spine was tested.

149 Patients.
GAP score: not predictive of Mechanical Complications

The Impact of the Lordosis Distribution Index on Mechanical Failure after Surgical Treatment of Adult Spinal Deformity

Daniel G. Tobert MD¹, Bryton J. Davis MD², Prokopis Annis MD³, Lawrence MD⁴, Darrel S. Brodke MD⁵, Nicholas Spina MD⁶, et al.

Results
 There were 187 patients that met the inclusion criteria. The number of levels fused, instrumented, and the PI-LL difference between pre- and post-operative surgery were significantly associated with LDI (treated as a continuous variable). W

187 Patients.
GAP score: not predictive of Mechanical Complications

Modified global alignment and proportion score and body mass index and bone mineral density as predictors of mechanical complications in adult spinal deformity surgery

Sung Hyun Noh, MD^{a,b}, Yoon Ha, MD, PhD^c, Ibrahim Jeong Yoon Park, MD, PhD^d, Sung Uk Kim, MD, PhD^e, Dong Kyu Chin, MD, PhD^f, Keun Su Kim, MD, PhD^g

Abstract
Objective: To investigate the association between the modified global alignment and proportion (GAP) score, body mass index (BMI), and bone mineral density (BMD) and the incidence of mechanical complications (MC) in adult spinal deformity (ASD) surgery.
Methods: A retrospective analysis of 89 ASD patients who underwent ASD surgery. The GAP score, BMI, and BMD were measured preoperatively. The incidence of MC was defined as the need for revision surgery within 2 years postoperatively.
Results: No difference was observed in the GAP score between the MC (+) and MC (-) groups (P = 0.15). The incidence of MC was significantly higher in the MC (+) group (P = 0.001). The incidence of MC was significantly higher in the MC (+) group with a BMI > 25 (P = 0.001) and a BMD < -1.0 (P = 0.001). The incidence of MC was significantly higher in the MC (+) group with a BMI > 25 and a BMD < -1.0 (P = 0.001). The predictive value of the GAP score in different patient cohorts are shown in the table.

89 Patients.
Age-Adjusted Goals: not predictive (AUC 0.57)

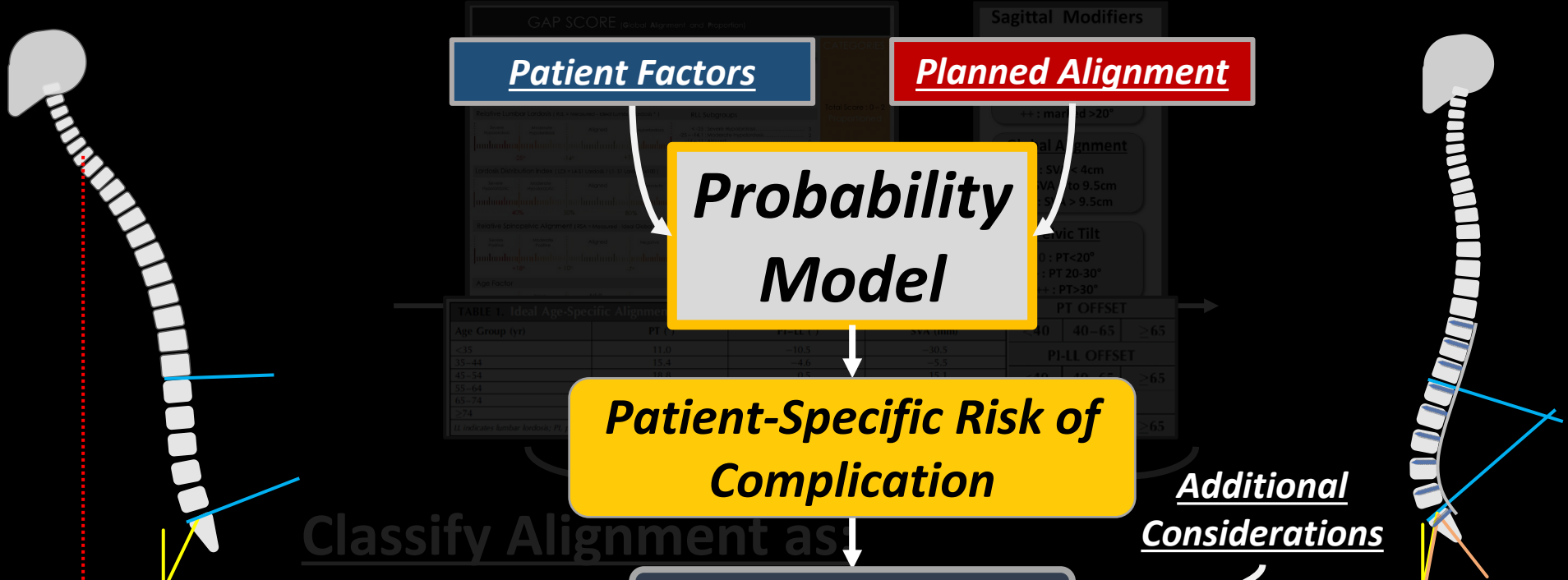
Predictive Probability of the Global Alignment and Proportion Score for the Development of Mechanical Failure Following Adult Spinal Deformity Surgery in Asian Patients

Mitsuru Yagi, MD, PhD^{a,b}, Kenichi Daimon, MD, PhD^c, Naobumi Hasegane, MD, PhD^d, Fumio Okada, MD, PhD^e, Satoshi Suzuki, MD, PhD^f, Osahiko Tsuji, MD, PhD^g, Narihito Nagashi, MD, PhD^h, Nobuyuki Fujita, MD, PhDⁱ, Masaya Nakamura, MD, PhD^j, Morio Matsumoto, MD, PhD^k, and Kota Watanabe, MD, PhD^l, Keio Spine Research Group

Study Design: This is a multicenter retrospective review of 257 surgically treated consecutive ASD patients who had a minimum follow-up of 2 years.
Objective: To investigate the predictive value of the GAP score in Asian patients.
Methods: A retrospective analysis of 257 ASD patients who underwent ASD surgery. The GAP score was measured preoperatively. The incidence of mechanical failure (MF) was defined as the need for revision surgery within 2 years postoperatively.
Results: No difference was observed in the GAP score between the MF (+) and MF (-) groups (P = 0.15). The incidence of MF was significantly higher in the MF (+) group (P = 0.001). The incidence of MF was significantly higher in the MF (+) group with a BMI > 25 (P = 0.001) and a BMD < -1.0 (P = 0.001). The incidence of MF was significantly higher in the MF (+) group with a BMI > 25 and a BMD < -1.0 (P = 0.001). The predictive value of the GAP score in different patient cohorts are shown in the table.

257 Patients.
GAP score: not predictive

What is the Optimal Sagittal Alignment?



Classify Alignment as

202 Patients:
 SRS-Schwab Classification: not predictive
 GAP score: not predictive

Ability of the Global Alignment and Mechanical Failure Following Surgery—Validation in 149 Patients
 Tanvir Johanning Bari, MD, PhD, DMSc, Mart...

Failure after Surgical Treatment
 Robert M. Driscoll, Brydon J. Davie, Protegeus Anirudh MD, PhD, Nicholas Spina MD, PhD

Modified global alignment and proportionately mass index and bone mineral density improve predictions of mechanical complications in adult spinal deformity surgery
 Sung Hyun Cho, MD, PhD, Ibrahim H. Ha, MD, PhD, Ibrahim H. Ha, MD, PhD, Sung Uk Kim, Dong Kyu Chin, MD, PhD, Keun Su Kim

Predictive Probability of the Global Alignment and Proportionately Mechanical Failure Score Following Adult Spinal Deformity Surgery in Asian Patients
 Atsuhisa Inoue, MD, PhD, Kenichi Goto, MD, PhD, Naohiro Higashino, MD, PhD, Eiji Okada, MD, PhD, Satoshi Suzuki, MD, PhD, Goro Inoue, MD, PhD, Naohiko Nagashima, MD, PhD, Naoharu Fujita, MD, PhD, Masaya Nakamura, MD, PhD, Akira Matsumoto, MD, PhD, and Kota Watanabe, MD, PhD, Aso Spine Research Group

Improved Decision Making

Summary of Current State

PJK Risk is Multifactorial.

Patient-Specific alignment targets & risk assessment is lacking.

Objective

Develop a PJK risk probability model using variables that are either known preoperatively or directly modifiable.

Hypothesis

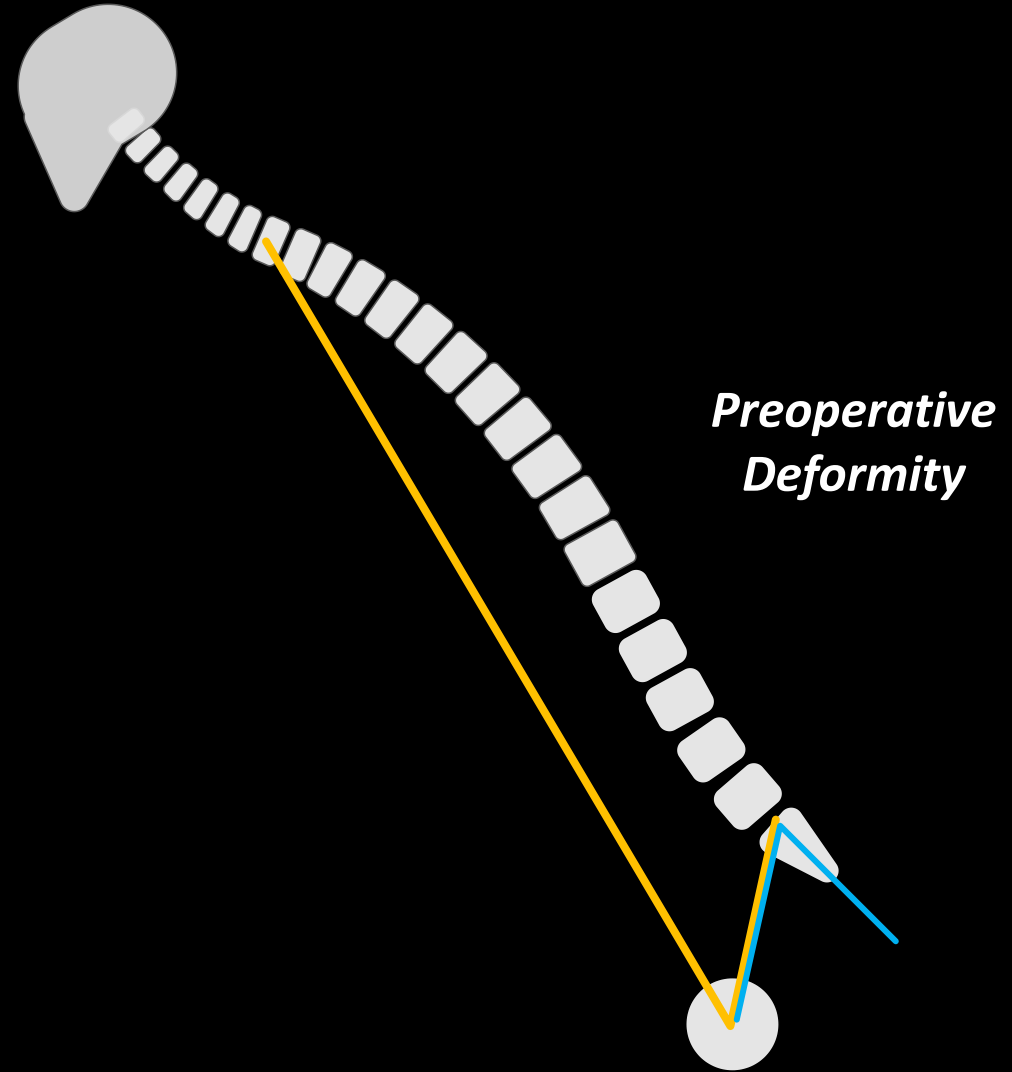


*Comorbidity
Burden / Frailty*

Hypothesis



*Comorbidity
Burden / Frailty*



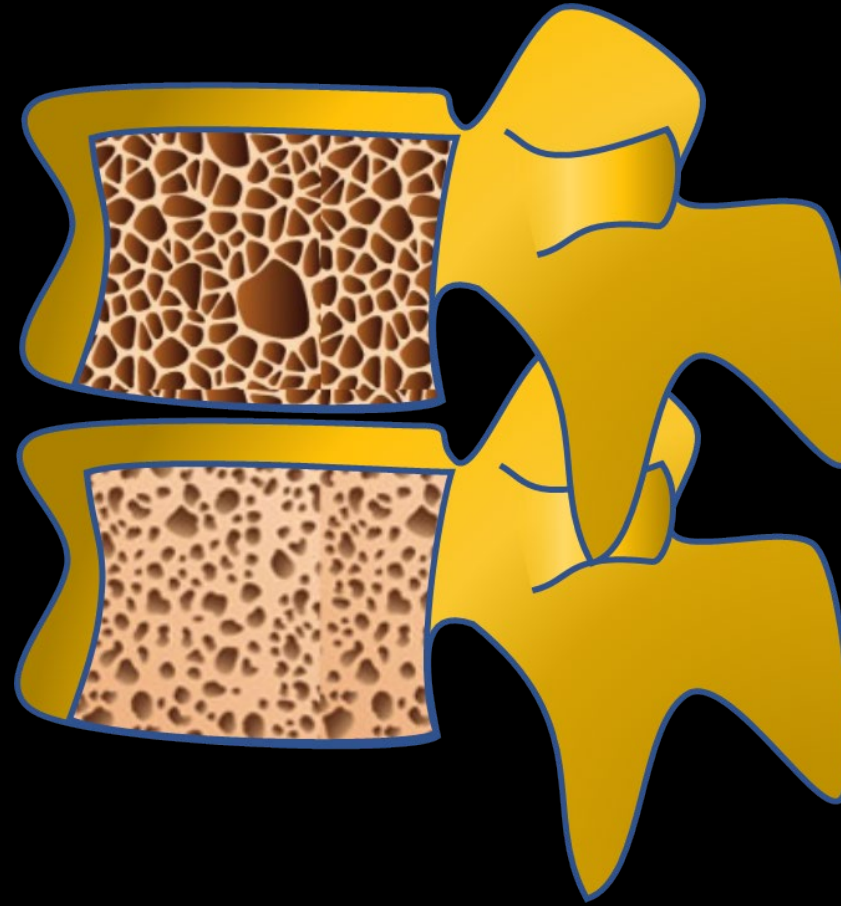
*Preoperative
Deformity*

Hypothesis



*Comorbidity
Burden / Frailty*

*Preoperative
Deformity*



*Vertebral Bone
Density*

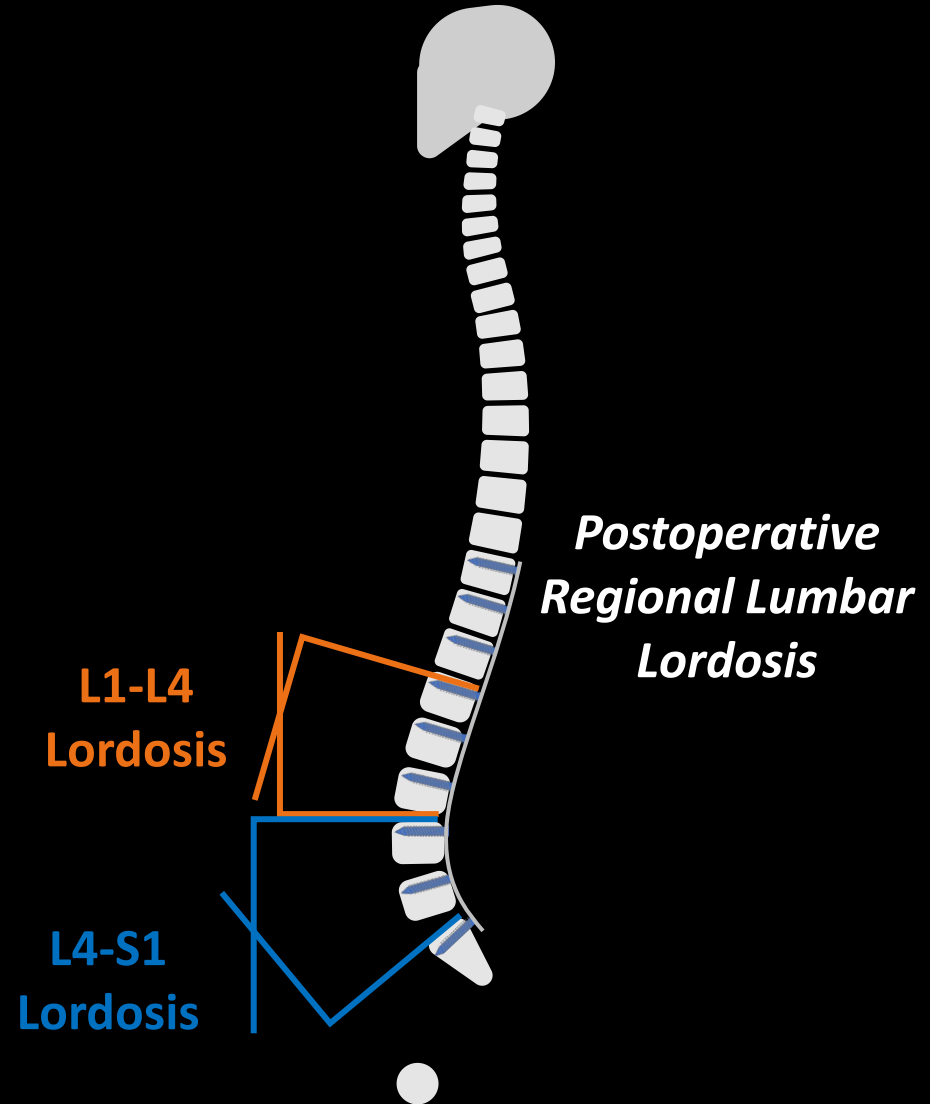
Hypothesis



**Comorbidity
Burden / Frailty**

**Preoperative
Deformity**

**Vertebral Bone
Density**



**L1-L4
Lordosis**

**L4-S1
Lordosis**

**Postoperative
Regional Lumbar
Lordosis**

Hypothesis



**Comorbidity
Burden / Frailty**

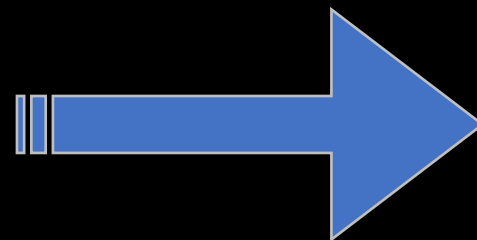
**Preoperative
Deformity**

**Vertebral Bone
Density**

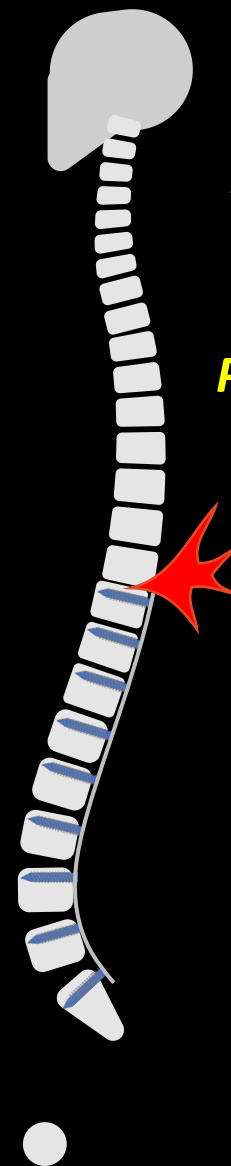
**L1-L4
Lordosis**

**L4-S1
Lordosis**

**Postoperative
Regional Lumbar
Lordosis**



**Proximal
Junctional
Kyphosis
&
PJK Severity**



Study Design & Cohort

Retrospective Cohort of Adult Deformity Surgical Patients (2009 to 2017)

Inclusion:

- **>18rs**
- **Fusion > 5 vertebral levels**
- **SVA \geq 5cm, Pelvic tilt \geq 25°, Thoracic Kyphosis \geq 60°, or Coronal Cobb >20°**

Exclusion:

- **< 2yr follow-up**
- **Undergoing surgery for infection or tumor**
- **Prior fusion > 5 levels**

Outcome, Predictors & Statistical Approach

Predictor Variables

Outcome: PJK Severity Score (ordinal)

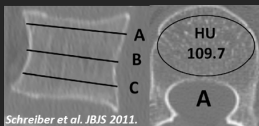
Preoperative Predictors

Alignment:

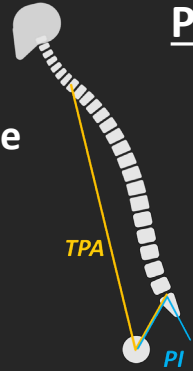
- Pelvic Morphology: Pelvic Incidence
- Global Deformity: T1 Pelvic Angle

Patient Factors:

- Comorbidity Burden:
 - Charlson Comorbidity Index
- Vertebral Bone Density:
 - Hounsfield Units at UIV +/- 4 vert



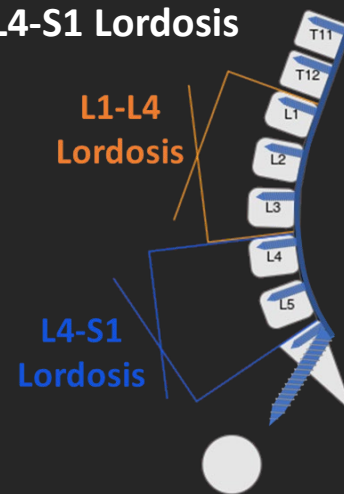
Schreiber et al. JBJS 2011.



Postoperative Predictors

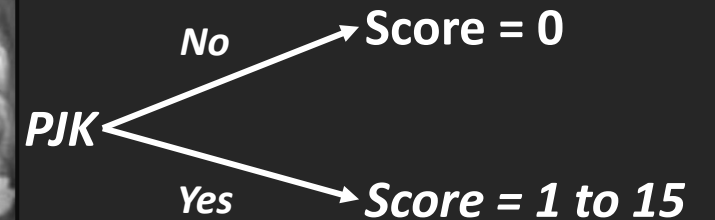
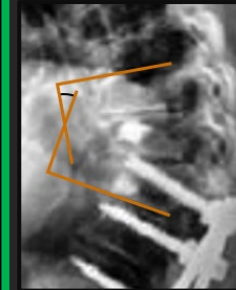
Surgical Alignment:

- L1-L4 Lordosis
- L4-S1 Lordosis



Primary Outcome:

- Hart ISSG-PJK Severity Score:



Characteristic	Points
Neurologic Deficit	0-4
Focal Pain	0-3
Instrumentation Problem	0-2
Change in Kyphosis/PLC Integrity	0-2
UIV/UIV + Fracture	0-3
Level of UIV	0-1
Total:	

Statistical Approach:

1. Proportional Odds Ordinal Regression Model

- Assess Predictor Effects
- Develop Predictive Tool
- Internally Validate Model via Bootstrap Resampling

Results

Descriptive Summary

204 meeting
inclusion criteria

59 Excluded

- 18 lost to f/u
- 41 prior long fusion or tumor/infection

145 Included

Patient Characteristics

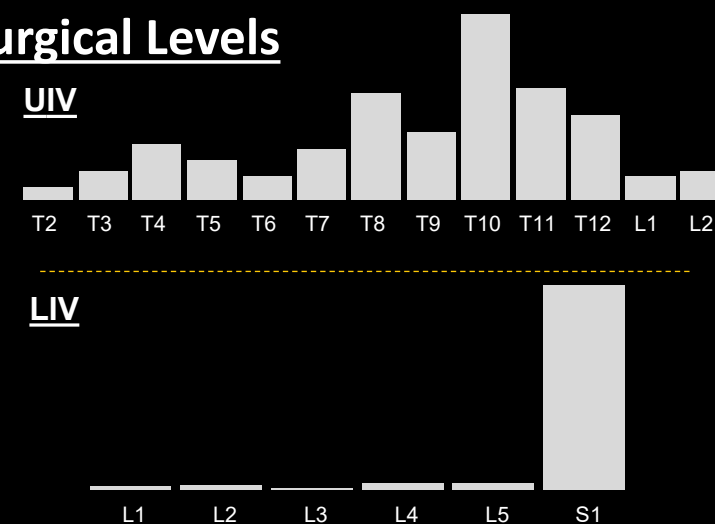
Study Cohort
n = 145

Age, median (IQR)	66.2 (59.8 to 71)
Female Sex, n (%)	118 (81.4)
Charlson Comorbidity Index, mean (IQR)	2 (0 to 3)
Hounsfield Units, median (IQR)	139.3 (120.6 to 180.1)
Follow-up (mo), median (IQR)	26.8 (24 to 48.7)

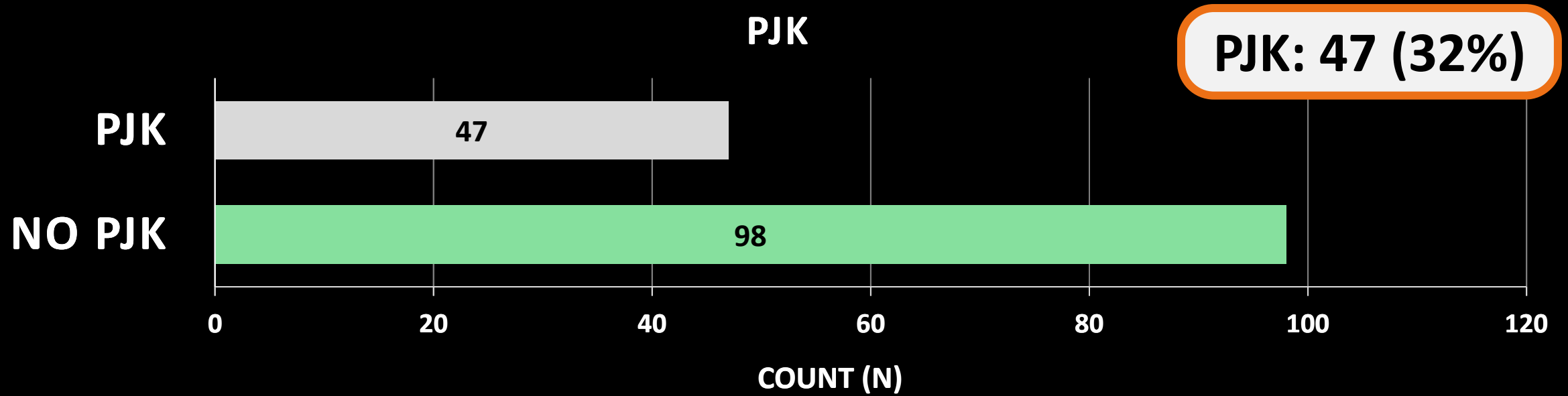
Pre- & Postoperative Alignment

Measure, median° (IQR)	Preoperative	Postoperative	P-value
PI-LL	20.3 (9.2 to 35)	9.9 (0.5 to 19.2)	< 0.001
TPA	25.4 (17.6 to 36.5)	20.3 (14.8 to 28)	< 0.001
L1-L4 Lordosis	1.0 (-9.3 - 14.3)	11.9 (5.1 to 21.7)	< 0.001
L4-S1 Lordosis	30.4 (21.0 - 37.0)	29 (21.6 to 34.8)	0.23

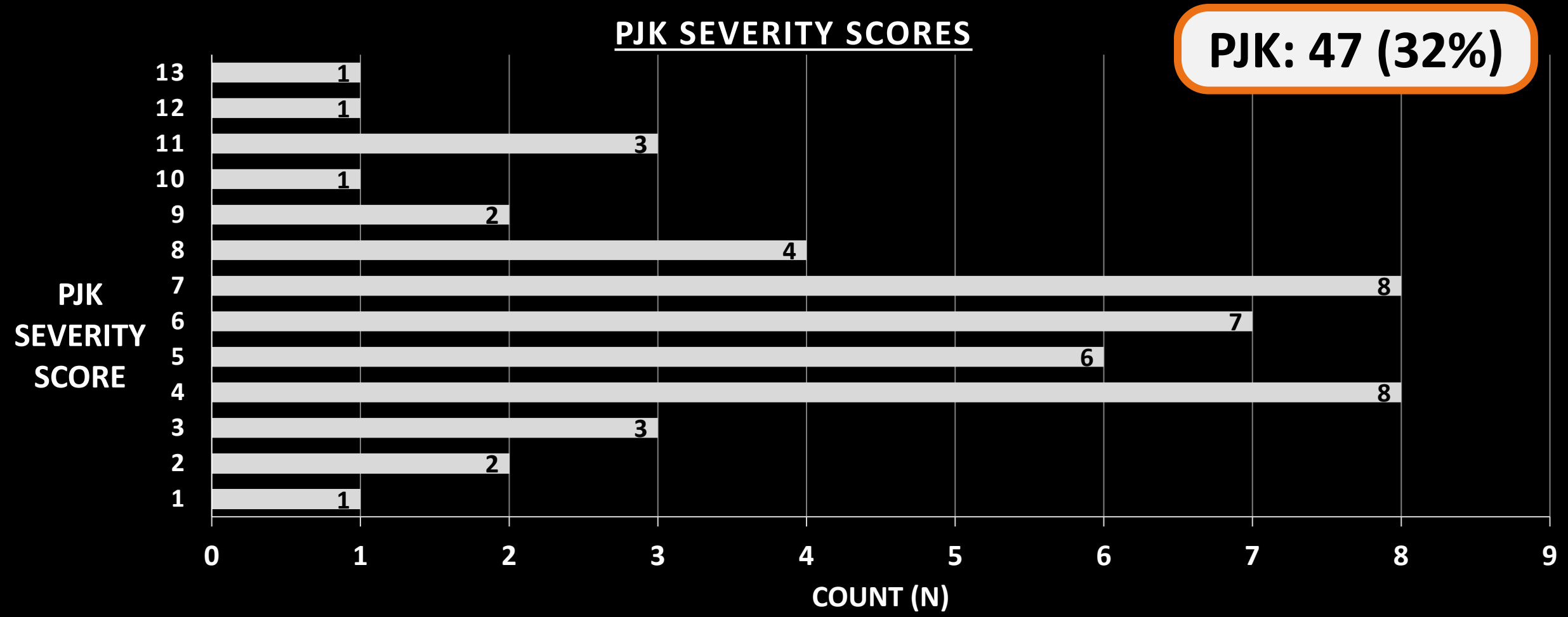
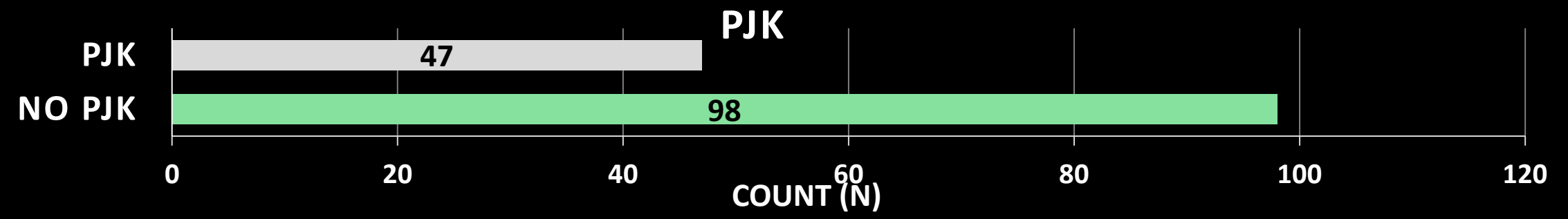
Surgical Levels



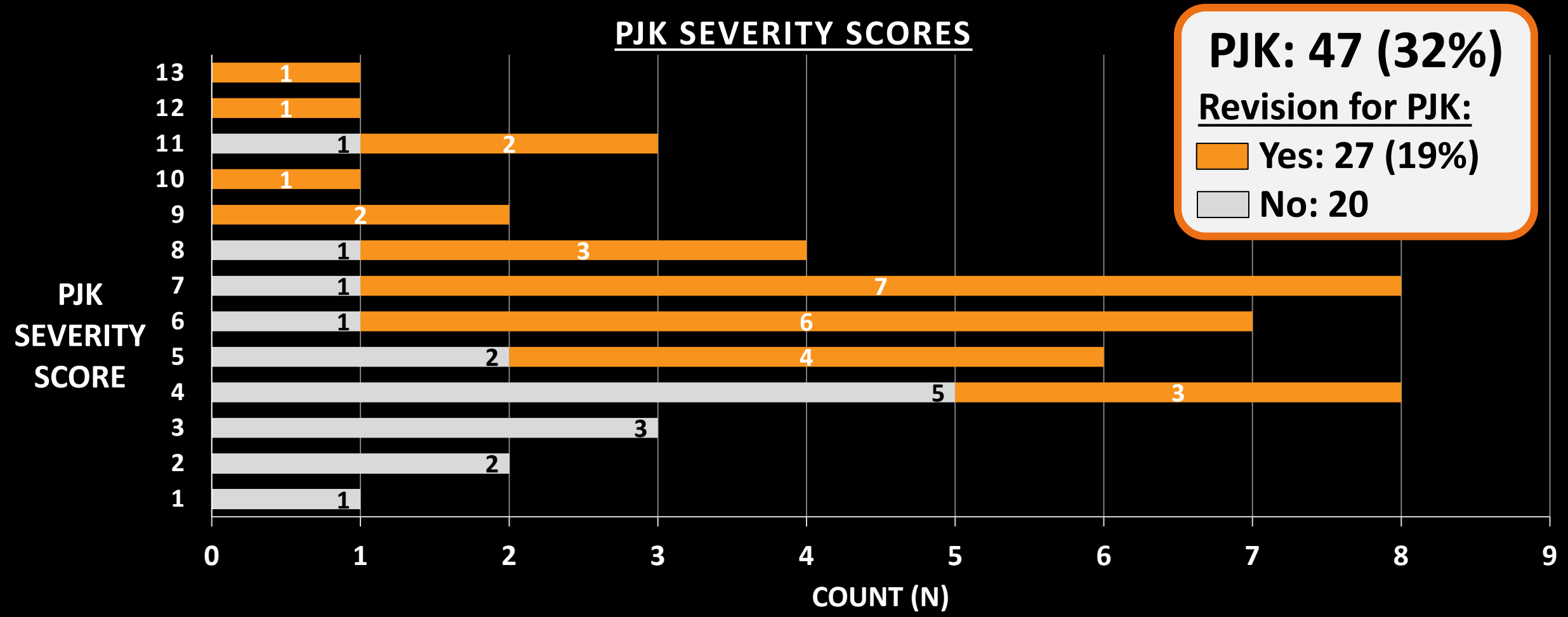
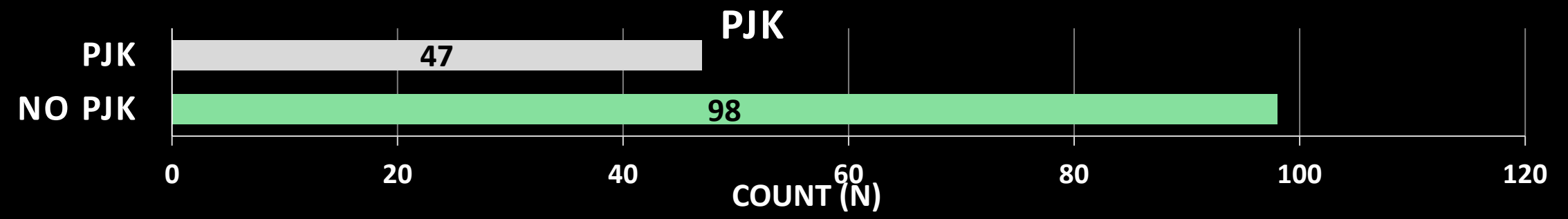
PJK & Revision Surgery



PJK & Revision Surgery

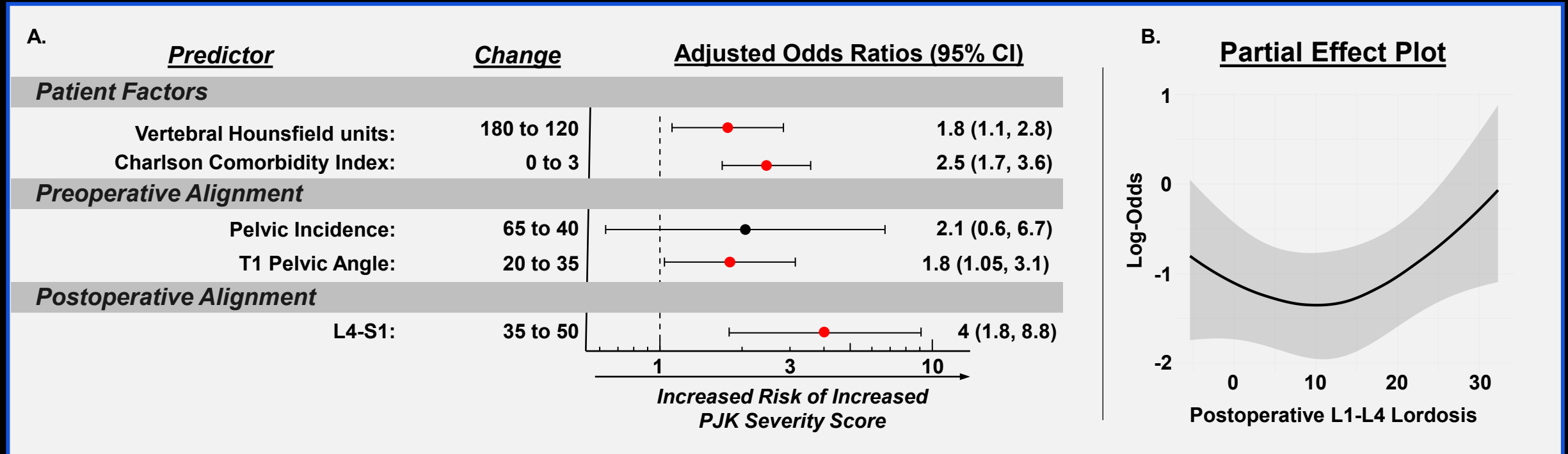


PJK & Revision Surgery



Predictor Effects

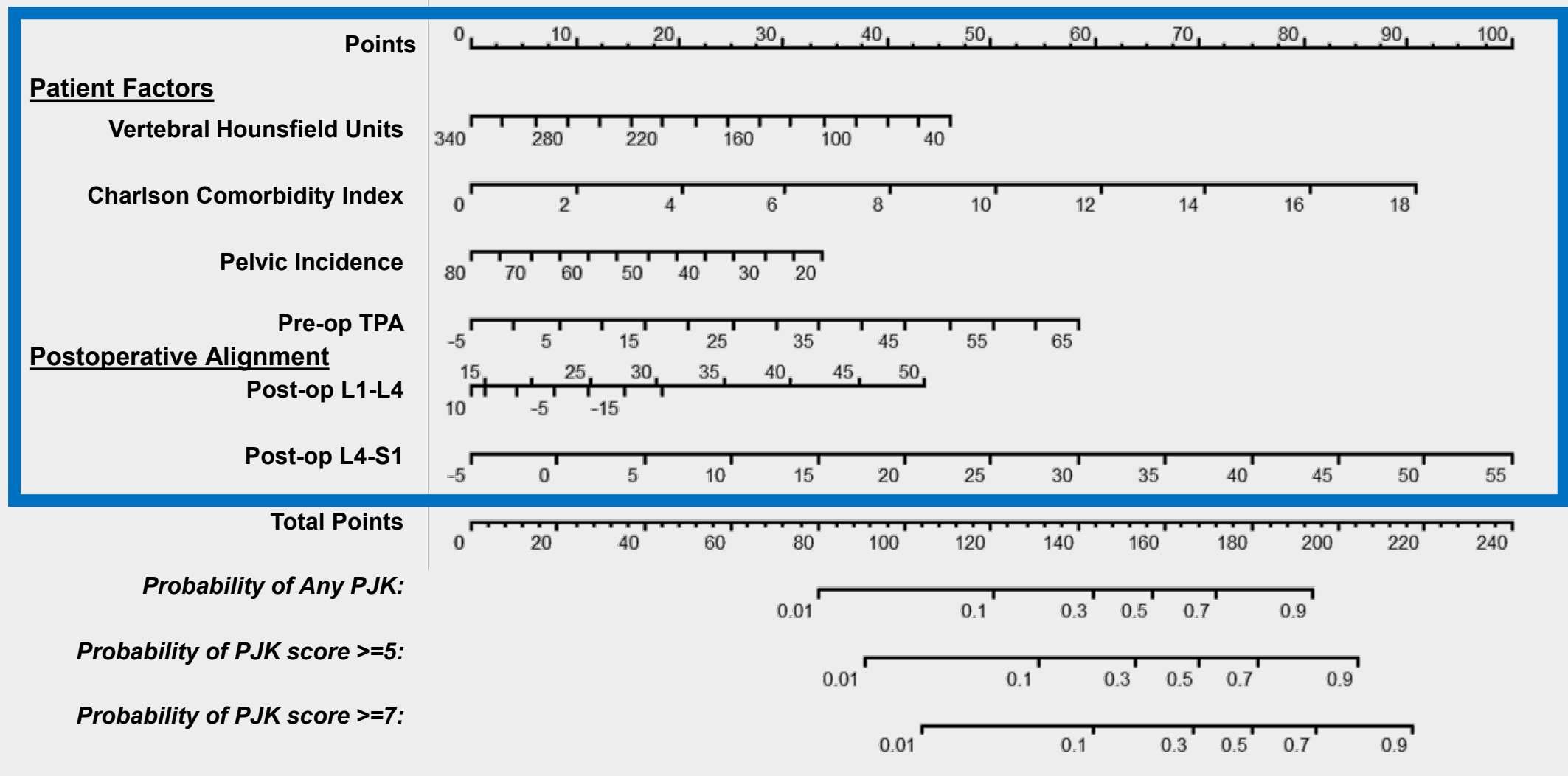
Adjusted odds of an increase in PJK Severity Score associated with a change in each predictor



L1-L4 Lordosis was modeled nonlinearly & thus, adjusted odds ratios not computed.

Nomogram

Nomogram for Computing Probability of PJK

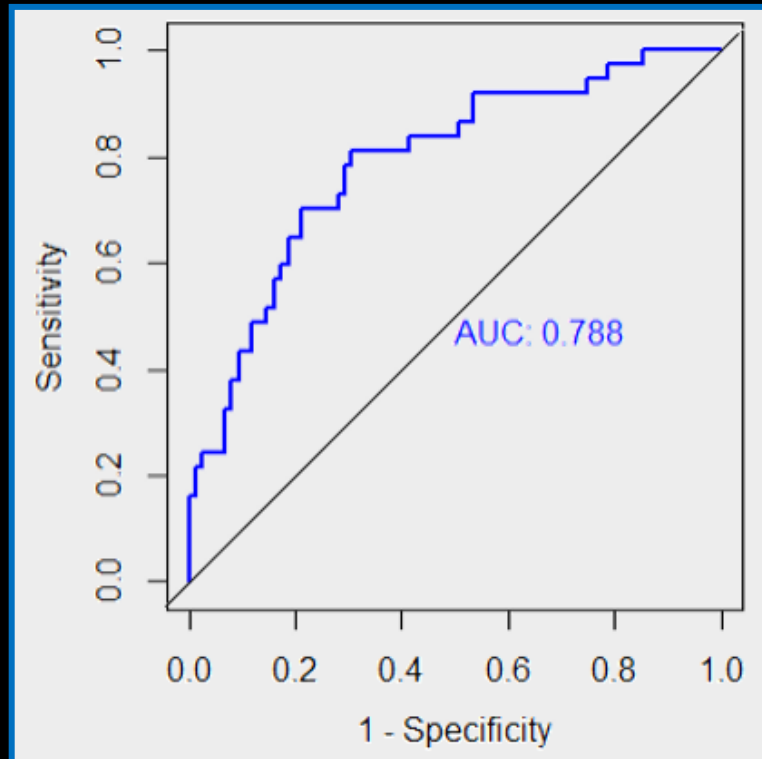


Results *Internal Validation: 1000 Bootstrapped Resamples*

Performance Metrics:

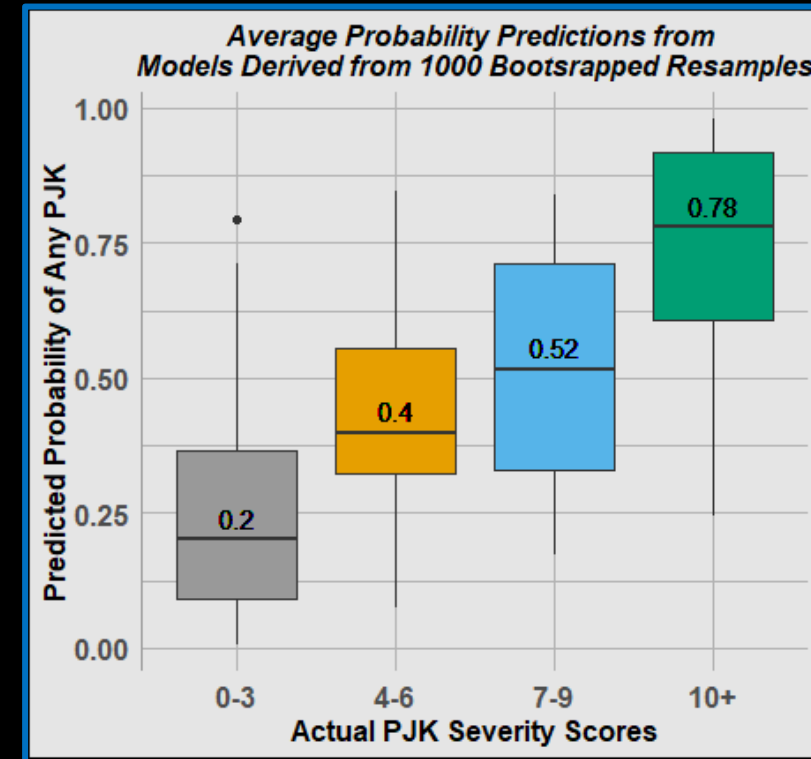
Discrimination

(Ability to distinguish high from low risk)



Overall Predictive Accuracy

(Mean squared error in probability estimates)



After Adjusting for Optimism (overfitting):

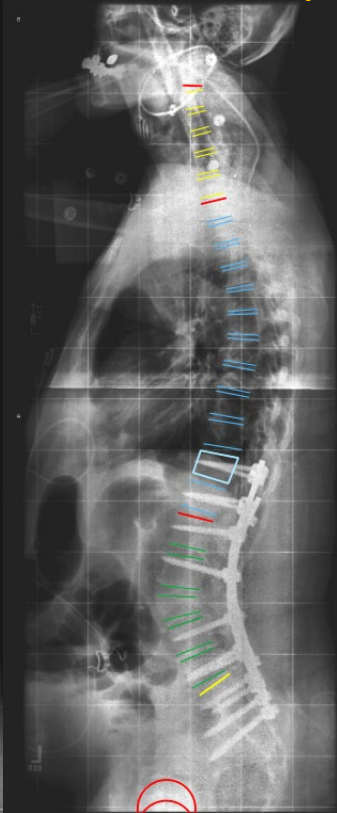
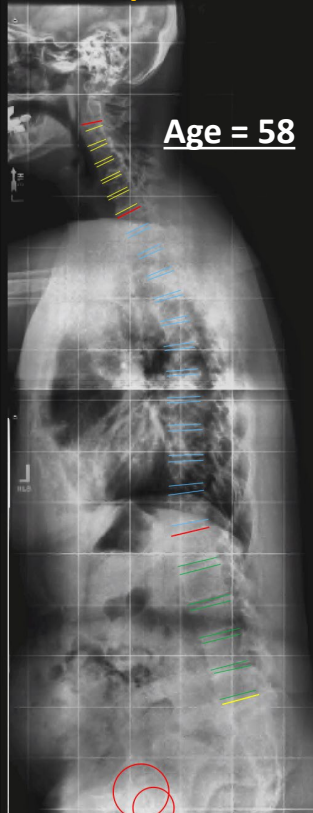
C statistic (AUC) = 0.73

Brier Score = 0.10

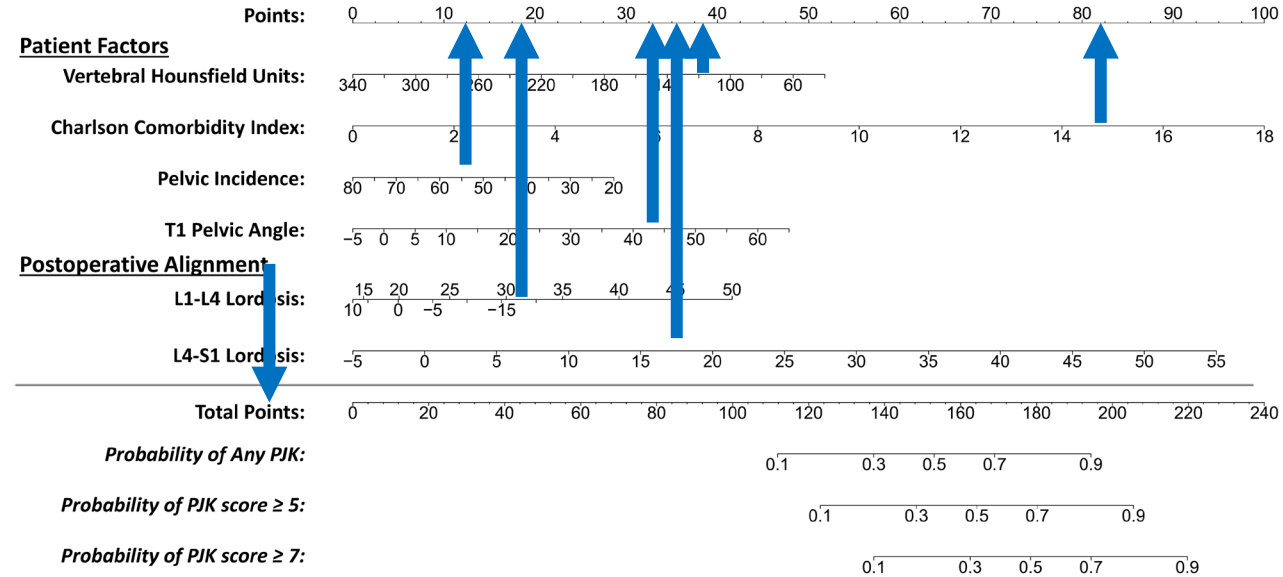
Case Example

Preoperative

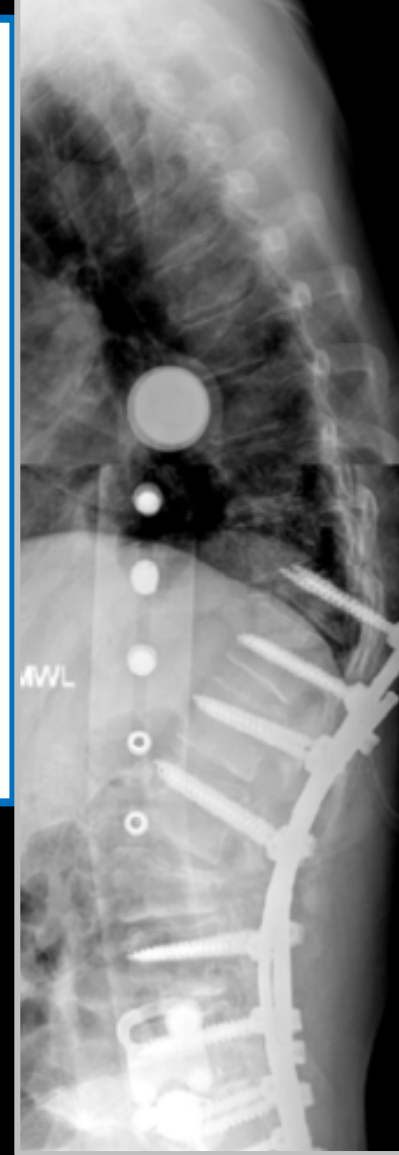
Immediate Postop



Nomogram for Estimating Probability of PJK



4wks Postop



Alignment Classifier

Value

Interpretation

GAP Score:

4

"Moderate-Risk"

Schwab Sagittal Modifier

Total:

+

Minimal Malalignment

Age-Adjusted Target Offsets

PI-LL:

1

Pelvic Tilt:

0.3

'At Goal'

TPA:

2

Probability of Any PJK = 97%

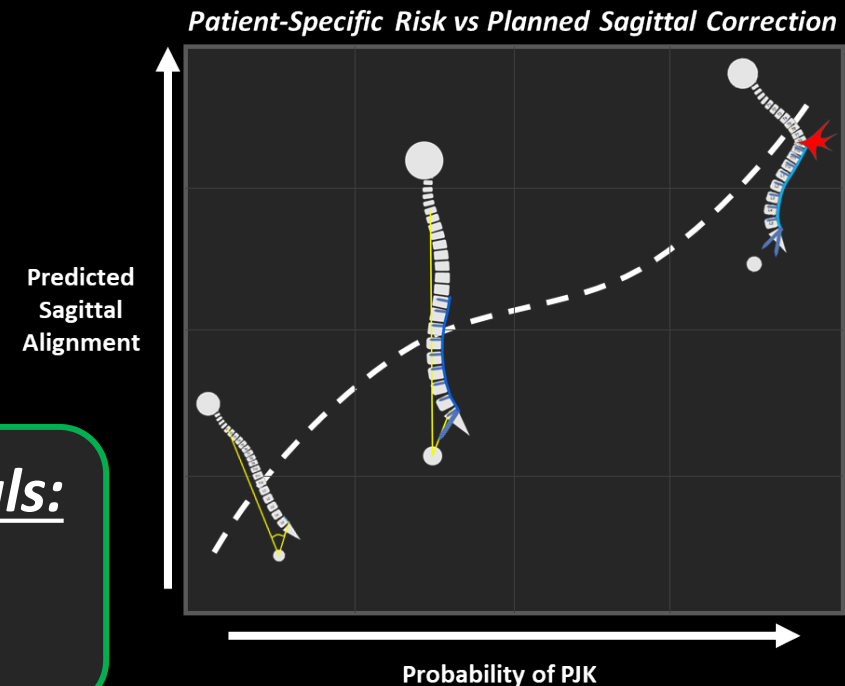
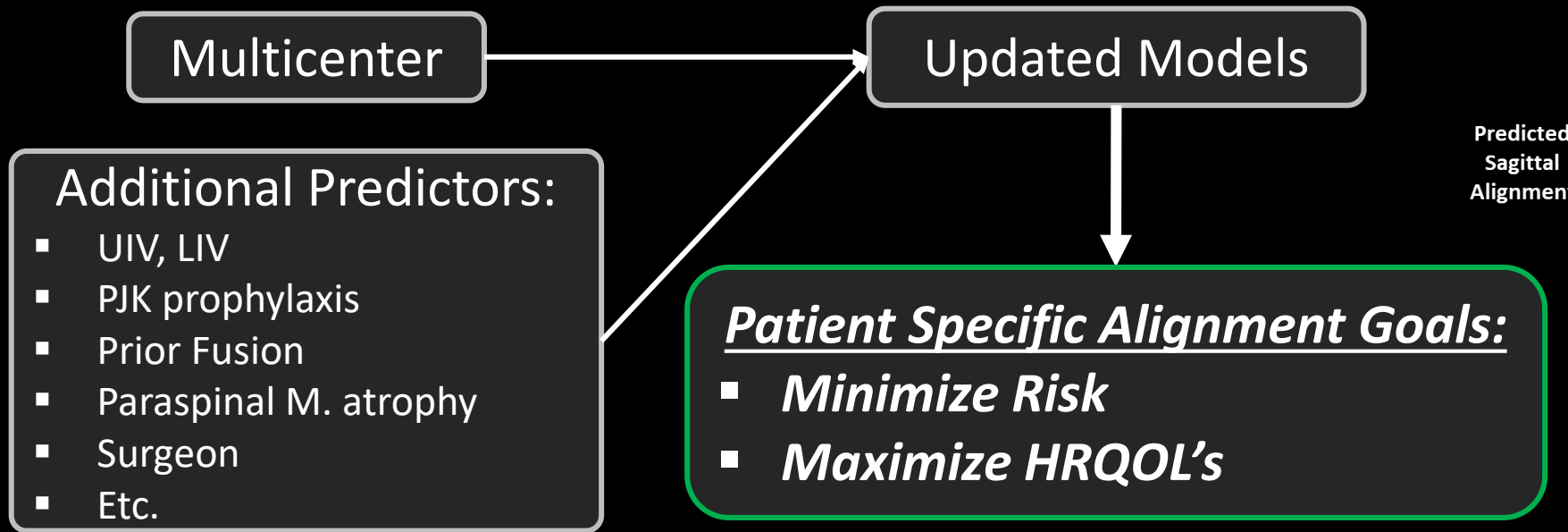
Probability of PJK Score ≥ 7 = 91%

Conclusion

- Retrospective
- Sample size & single center
- Strictly an assessment of PJK risk

Limitations

Future Directions



Thank You!

Jeff Hills, MD

UT Health Science Center San Antonio

September 30, 2021

NASS 36th Annual Meeting



Co-Authors:

Benjamin Weisenthal, MD

John Wanner, MD

Jackie Pennings, PhD

Byron Stephens, MD

Acknowledgments

Benjamin Lane

Hui Nian

Frank Harrell

Study conducted at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

