

## OOT: The Open Operating Theatre

M. Aebi · R. Gunzburg

Received: 20 April 2011 / Published online: 4 May 2011  
© Springer-Verlag 2011

It is now a while since the *European Spine Journal* has been building up a video library of surgical spinal interventions. Several issues and problems in creating this “Open Operating Theatre” (OOT) have been resolved. The major issue was to create an easy online accessibility to the films. This seems to be more complex when working with a major scientific publisher, which still has to follow a specific issue of a single journal out of many hundreds of scientific journals.

At the end of the day it is all about costs, because this OOT service must be covered by additional income. The hopefully final solution is in the making; however, it is not yet definitely resolved. On a more positive note, we find that we have now been able to attract MedTech companies to undergo, with some of their innovative products, the exactly same process of producing a teaching film, which fulfils the educational standards set by the journal, and to present their products not as an advertisement effort but as a teaching tool following those standards. All the films were produced by the Editorial Board of the Journal together with interested surgeons in order to build the journal’s surgical teaching library, or initiated by a company together with its preferred surgeon following the list of standards set by the *European Spine Journal*.

We therefore now have two types of films in the OOT—as originally planned:

- pure teaching films initiated by the journal and interested surgeons (type A film),
- and films initiated by surgeons and MedTech companies to teach certain innovative technologies in surgery (type B films).

All films, once approved by the *European Spine Journal*, will be indexed and add scientific credibility to the authors.

In this issue, we will include in the OOT a film about a new concept of a disc arthroplasty, which differs substantially from what is on the market at the present time. This disc tries to imitate a normal disc and incorporates into the intervertebral space without any metal plates, but only as a complex polyurethane device mimicking the nucleus and annulus of a disc. Whether this disc will start a new era of disc replacement has to be seen. But as this disc has gotten market approvals through a CE Mark, we consider it important that this surgery is done in a standardized way as proposed in the film in the OOT. We hope this will create some interest amongst our readership.

---

M. Aebi (✉) · R. Gunzburg  
MEM Research Center for Orthopaedic Surgery,  
Institute for Evaluative Research in Orthopaedic Surgery,  
University of Bern, Stauffacherstrasse 78,  
3014 Bern, Switzerland  
e-mail: max.aebi@MEMcenter.unibe.ch

R. Gunzburg  
Surgery of the Spine, Niellonstraat 14, 2600 Berchem, Belgium  
e-mail: robert@gunzburg.be