

Preface

Contemporary techniques in spinal surgery offer the treating physician a myriad of options for diagnosing and treating cervical spine pathology. Nevertheless, many controversies remain in this field. In this issue of *Roundtables in Spine Surgery*, we have attempted to address four major areas of controversy: (1) the use of dynamic cervical plates, (2) the application of alternative fusion materials, (3) the optimal posterior approach for decompression of cervical stenosis, and 4) the role for motion preservation surgery in the cervical spine.

We have assembled an expert panel of spinal surgeons to help shed light on these four areas. Their opinions are often quite conflicting and disparate, reflecting the wide range of opinions on these topics. For most readers this monograph will produce more questions than answers. As such it is intended to stimulate thought and discussion with the hope that future clinical and scientific studies will provide the definitive answers.

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