

## Electronic Supplementary Material

### Other tertiary outcomes

Both sensory and motor functions improved or were reported as stable at the implanted level from pre-operation to the 6-, 12-, and 24-month assessments in the vast majority of patients (Table). The percentage of patients practicing physical activities increased from 49% (63/130) to 60% (58/97) at 2 years. Among the group of patients not active before surgery because of back pain, almost 80% did not have their physical activity hindered by back pain 2 years after surgery (Table).

**Table** Changes in tertiary outcomes from pre-operation (baseline) to 2 years

Outcome	Pre-operation	6 months post-surgery	12 months post-surgery	24 months post-surgery
Neurological status at implanted level				
Motor changes:				
<i>n</i> (%) improved	10 (8%)	12 (10%)	12 (12%)	13 (14%)
<i>n</i> (%) deteriorated	3 (2%)	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)
total <i>n</i>	131	126	104	96
Sensory changes:				
<i>n</i> (%) improved	21 (16%)	25 (20%)	22 (21%)	23 (24%)
<i>n</i> (%) deteriorated	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	3 (3%)
total <i>n</i>	132	125	103	95

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Patients inactive because of back pain, <i>n</i> /total (%)	51/130 (39%)	27/51 (53%) <sup>a</sup>	12/36 (33%) <sup>a</sup>	7/30 (23%) <sup>a</sup>
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<sup>a</sup>This describes the physical activity level of only a subset of patients: those who were inactive pre-operatively because of back pain. “Physical activity” includes short walks to running