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Editors' Introduction: State-of-the-Art Techniques in Endoscopic Spine Surgery

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In the modern era, surgery in many fields has made rapid progress through endoscopic surgery. Given the proximity of critical anatomic structure, including the spinal nerves that raise significant safety concerns, the adoption of spinal endoscopy has been gradual.[1] However, the increase in the elderly population and patient expectations to resume rapid function after spine surgery have led to a drive toward less invasive surgical approaches, including endoscopic surgery.[2,3] Endoscopic spine surgery was initially limited to discectomy, but with the development of surgical techniques and instruments, it is now applied to endoscopic decompression and fusion, and the scope is expanding from the lumbar spine to the cervical and thoracic spines.[4–8]

In this endoscopic spine surgery special issue of the *International Journal of Spine Surgery*, contributors from across the globe discuss the present and future of spinal endoscopy, which is rapidly developing. We appreciate the reviewer team for their hard work on this special issue. As is often the case in medicine and technology, things that seem to last forever change suddenly one day. It is time to prepare for the next generation of spine therapy.[9]

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