
SUMMARY:
- This retrospective study demonstrates that DuraGen Dural Graft Matrix is safe and effective for dural repairs in the posterior fossa and is easy to use and time efficient.
- 52 procedures are reviewed where DuraGen matrix is used:
  - in 48 patients as an onlay graft (without suturing the dura or the graft)
  - in 4 patients as a patch (placed on top of a partially sutured dura, but the DuraGen matrix was not sutured)
- This study discusses the potential benefits of not suturing the graft in place when post-operative brain swelling is anticipated, such as in posterior fossa and supratentorial procedures. These benefits include:
  - reduced operative time, since suturing of the graft is not required
  - increased ability for the wound to accommodate transient postoperative cerebral swelling.

RESULTS:
- High efficacy and low rates of graft-associated complications reported:
  - No CSF leaks or fistulas were detected that were attributable to the dural graft, despite not suturing a watertight dural closure.
  - Low infection rates: Infection was only seen in 1 patient (1.9%) who was previously on steroids and had a superficial wound infection.
  - Low Pseudomeningocele formation, which is sometimes associated with CSF leaks, occurred in 2/52 patients (3.8%) both of which occurred in patients who did not receive closed suction wound drainage. No pseudomeningoceles developed in patients who had closed suction wound drainage.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY POINTS OF STUDY</th>
<th>IMPORTANCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>DuraGen matrix was safe and effective for duraplasty in posterior fossa</td>
<td>Surgeons may benefit from the convenience of sutureless dural closure in the posterior fossa.</td>
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<td>Suturing of the dural graft was not required to achieve effective dural closure in posterior fossa surgery</td>
<td>Elimination of suturing can save operative time</td>
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<td>Not suturing the graft potentially benefits patients when post-operative brain swelling is anticipated</td>
<td>The non-sutured graft allows the repair to accommodate transient post-operative swelling.</td>
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CALL TO ACTION:
- Position this study with physicians who are currently suturing their dural repairs during posterior fossa surgery. These physicians may believe that a “watertight”, sutured dura is the best way to have low CSF leaks and reduce other complications, however, this study showed no leakage and very low complication rates in this patient subpopulation when DuraGen matrix was used in accordance with the instructions for use, layered wound closure, and detection and effective control of hydrocephalus.
- Position this study with physicians using other dural substitute materials during posterior fossa surgery. Once you have probed to discover why these surgeons are using other materials, use this study to convince them that DuraGen matrix is the preferred material from a clinical evidence perspective as it has been successfully used in this specific application.

Please see instructions for use for complete product information.