

# The Mobi-C cervical disc for one-level and two-level cervical disc replacement: a review of the literature

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**Background:** Cervical disc arthroplasty (CDA) is a novel motion-preserving procedure that is an alternative to fusion. The Mobi-C disc prosthesis, one of many Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved devices for CDA, is the only FDA-approved prosthesis for two-level CDA. Hence, it may allow for improved outcomes compared with multilevel fusion procedures.

**Purpose:** To critically assess the available literature on CDA with the Mobi-C prosthesis, with a focus on two-level CDA.

**Methods:** All clinical articles involving the Mobi-C disc prosthesis for CDA through September 1, 2014 were identified on Medline. Any paper that presented Mobi-C CDA clinical results was included. Study design, sample size, length of follow-up, use of statistical analysis, quality of life outcome scores, conflict of interest, and complications were recorded.

**Results:** Fifteen studies were included that investigated Mobi-C CDA, only one of which was a level Ib randomized control trial. All studies included showed non-inferiority of one-level Mobi-C CDA to one-level anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF). Only one study analyzed outcomes of one-level versus two-level Mobi-C CDA, and only one study analyzed two-level Mobi-C CDA versus two-level ACDF. In comparison with other cervical disc prostheses, the Mobi-C prosthesis is associated with higher rates of heterotopic ossification (HO). Studies with conflicts of interest reported lower rates of HO. Adjacent segment degeneration or disease, along with other complications, were not assessed in most studies.

**Conclusion:** One-level Mobi-C CDA is non-inferior, but not superior, to one-level ACDF for patients with cervical degenerative disc disease. The Mobi-C CDA procedure is associated with high rates of HO. Two-level Mobi-C CDA may be superior to two-level ACDF. However, insufficient evidence exists, thereby mandating a need for unbiased, well-designed prospective studies with well-defined outcomes in the future.

**Keywords:** Mobi-C, cervical disc arthroplasty, total disc replacement, ACDF, quality of life, outcomes, effectiveness, cervical spine

## Introduction

Cervical disc arthroplasty (CDA) has been deemed an equivalent and, in some studies, superior alternative to anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF) for patients with cervical radiculopathy or myelopathy.<sup>1-6</sup> It has been marketed as, unlike ACDF, able to retain mobility at the operated spinal levels while inducing both pain relief and improved function. Many investigational device exemption trials on different types of these devices (eg, Bryan [Medtronic Sofamor Danek, Memphis, TN, USA], ProDisc [Synthes Spine, Paoli, PA, USA], Prestige [Medtronic Sofamor Danek]) have been conducted and consistently show that CDA is a safe alternative to ACDF, with equivalent or greater effectiveness.<sup>1-6</sup> However, these trials have focused on one-level CDA.

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The Mobi-C cervical disc prosthesis (LDR Spine USA, Inc., Austin, TX, USA) is Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved for one-level (8-7-2013, P110002) and two-level (adjacent) use (8-23-2013, P110009). It contains two cobalt-chrome alloy shells with an intervening polyethylene insert (Figure 1). It has lateral self-retaining teeth, designed for optimal stability and anchoring. The insert's mobility may reduce constraints on the posterior facet joints, though this has not been proven. Currently, the Mobi-C disc has FDA approval as the first and only artificial disc for both single-level and two-level CDA.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this study was to review the current literature on the Mobi-C disc, with a focus on two-level cervical arthroplasty.

## Methods

A literature search was performed using the Medline database via the PubMed search engine with the following search terms: "Mobi-C", "cervical disc arthroplasty", "cervical disc replacement", and "disc replacement". Any studies that presented clinical results associated with the Mobi-C cervical disc prosthesis were included. Biomechanical studies, radiographic studies, and animal studies were excluded, as were articles dealing with nucleus replacement. No limitations prevented us from including studies on the Mobi-C disc. All articles were reviewed and classified according to level of evidence (LOE) independently by two of the authors. The criteria put forth by Sackett et al<sup>7</sup> were used to analyze the data (Table 1) and stratify according to LOE. For the purposes of this study, only levels Ib, IIb, IIIb, and IV were relevant. The reasons for low LOE included lack of adequate follow-up (<85% of original sample size), incomplete reporting of important outcome measures or percentage of subjects available at follow-up, complete absence or incomplete reporting of statistical analysis of results, and/or inadequate sample size, which was defined in this study as n<50 patients undergoing CDA.

All randomized controlled, retrospective, and prospective studies were presented for completeness. All articles were

**Table 1** Levels of Evidence

Level of evidence	Study type
Ia	Systematic review of RCTs (with homogeneity)
Ib	Individual RCT with narrow confidence interval (blind or independent assessment of important outcome measures, follow-up rate equal or greater than 85% at 24 months, adequate sample size, intent-to-treat analysis and concealment)
Ic	All or none
IIa	Systematic review of cohort studies
IIb	Individual cohort study, low quality RCT, case-control study, good quality retrospective
IIc	Outcomes research
IIIa	Systematic review of case-control studies
IIIb	Individual case-control study
IV	Case series, poor-quality cohort and case-control studies
V	Expert opinion without explicit critical appraisal

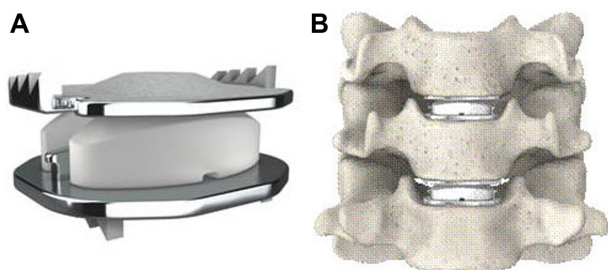
**Abbreviation:** RCT, randomized control trial.

**Note:** Data from Sackett et al.<sup>7</sup>

then evaluated with regard to conflict of interest (COI) by review of their respective disclosure sections. Any remunerative or non-financial activity with the potential of creating bias in the author or author(s) of a published manuscript was considered a COI per the guidelines published online by the North American Spine Society (NASS).<sup>8</sup> All included journals had a minimum of certain disclosure requirements, and those were used to determine whether there was any bias among the authors. Complications and/or adverse outcomes assessed included heterotopic ossification (HO), adjacent segment degeneration (ASDG), adjacent segment disease, or other, such as dysphagia or reoperation. Adjacent segment disease, which is defined by symptom presentation clinically, was considered a distinct entity from ASDG, which is defined by radiographic presentation. ACDF was performed with allograft and plating. Range of motion (ROM) was reported as "same" or "improved" based on the patient's baseline pre-operative ROM due to the cervical disease and postoperative improvement, if it occurred.

## Results

Fifteen studies that involved Mobi-C CDA were included: one randomized control trial, five prospective studies, and nine retrospective studies (Tables 2 and 3). These studies encompassed a total of 1,319 patients undergoing Mobi-C CDA. Only two studies<sup>9,10</sup> were controlled with an ACDF cohort, and five studies reported a COI.<sup>9,11-14</sup> Only two studies specifically focused on two-level CDA, while five other studies included at least one patient who had two-level CDA.



**Figure 1** Mobi-C Disc Prosthesis (A) and representation of two-level use (B).  
**Note:**Data from <http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/DeviceApprovalsandClearances/Recently-ApprovedDevices/ucm367809.htm>.<sup>38</sup>

**Table 2** Summary of included studies

Study	Year	Design	Levels	n (# two-level)	Mean FU, months (%)	NDI	VAS neck	VAS arm	SF-36 MCS	SF-36 PCS	ROM
Oh et al <sup>23</sup>	2014	R	I	60 CDA	18	–	Imp	Imp	–	–	Imp
Davis et al <sup>9</sup>	2013	RCT	I and 2	225 CDA (225) 105 ACDF	24 (100%)	Imp	Same	Same	–	–	Same
Park et al <sup>16</sup>	2013	R	I and 2	75 CDA (10)	24	Imp	Imp	Imp	–	–	–
Park et al <sup>22</sup>	2013	R	I	14 CDA	36	–	–	–	–	–	–
Yi et al <sup>2</sup>	2013	R	I	170 CDA	20	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guérin et al <sup>11</sup>	2012	PC	I and 2	71 CDA (12)	21	–	Imp	Imp	Imp	Imp	–
Guérin et al <sup>17</sup>	2012	PC	I	40 CDA	24	Imp	Imp	Imp	Imp	Imp	Same
Lee et al <sup>19</sup>	2012	PC	I	28 CDA	24 (78.5%)	Imp	Imp	Imp	–	–	–
Huppert et al <sup>12</sup>	2011	PC	I and 2	231 CDA (51)	24 (100%)	Imp	Imp	Imp	–	–	Same
Bao et al <sup>20</sup>	2011	R	2	20 CDA	16 (100%)	Imp	Imp*	Imp*	–	–	Same
Jin et al <sup>21</sup>	2011	R	I	67 CDA	12 (76%)	–	Imp	Imp	–	Imp	Same
Yi et al <sup>14</sup>	2010	R	I and 2	61 CDA (1)	14 (100%)	–	–	–	–	–	–
Beaurain et al <sup>18</sup>	2009	PC	I and 2	76 CDA (9)	24 (100%)	Imp	Imp	Imp	Imp	Imp	Same
Park et al <sup>10</sup>	2008	R	I	32 CDA 21 ACDF	20	Imp	Imp	Imp	–	–	–
Kim et al <sup>15</sup>	2007	R	I and 2	23 CDA (1)	6	–	Imp	Imp	–	–	–

**Note:** \*Differentiation between VAS arm and neck scores not provided.

**Abbreviations:** ACDF, anterior cervical discectomy and fusion; CDA, cervical disc arthroplasty; FU, clinical follow-up; Imp, improved; MCS, mental component summary; NDI, neck disability index; PC, prospective cohort; PCS, physical component summary; R, retrospective; RCT, randomized control trial; ROM, range of motion; SF-36, Short-Form 36; VAS, visual analog scale.

## One-level CDA

The first study analyzing the Mobi-C disc was published in 2007 by Kim et al.<sup>15</sup> This retrospective study (n=23) on one-level CDA showed improved quality of life (QOL) and functional outcomes, as well as presented a simple and reproducible surgical technique. Results showed significantly

improved ( $P<0.01$ ) visual analog scale (VAS) scores (axial pain and radiculopathy) at 6 months follow-up. Park et al<sup>10</sup> retrospectively assessed outcomes in 53 patients (21 one-level CDA and 32 ACDF) with cervical disc herniations. Both mean hospital stay (5.6 vs 6.3 days, respectively) and time to return to work after surgery (1 vs 3 weeks, respectively) were significantly ( $P<0.05$ ) shorter in the CDA cohort. With a mean follow-up of 12 months, both cohorts saw improved neck disability index (NDI) and VAS scores, but were not statistically different from one another. No complications were noted for the CDA cohort, whereas the ACDF cohort had five instances of cage subsidence. The same authors then looked at the incidence of and risk factors for HO in 75 patients who underwent CDA.<sup>16</sup> At 2 years postoperative, the HO rate was 94.1%, and both alignment and segmental motion decreased compared with preoperatively, which the authors attributed to the high HO rate. Ten patients underwent two-level CDA, but the authors did not differentiate between one- and two-level cohorts. VAS neck/arm and NDI scores both improved significantly. The only risk factor for developing HO was surgical technique. Two surgeons independently performed all operations in the study. To trim endplates, surgeon A used a fluted ball-type burr, while surgeon B used a diamond-type burr. Subsequently, surgeon A had significantly more patients develop HO.

Guérin et al<sup>17</sup> conducted a prospective study (n=40; mean 2-year follow-up) to analyze sagittal balance after one-level CDA. Patients saw statistically significantly

**Table 3** COI and complications

Author	Year	LOE	COI	HO	ASDG
Oh et al <sup>23</sup>	2014	IIb	None	–	–
Davis et al <sup>9</sup>	2013	Ib	Funded by LDR <sup>a</sup>	4.9%	16% CDA 51% ACDF
Park et al <sup>16</sup>	2013	IIb	NDS	94.1%	None
Park et al <sup>22</sup>	2013	IV	None	–	14.2% CDA
Yi et al <sup>2</sup>	2013	IIb	Institutional funding	52.5%	–
Guérin et al <sup>11</sup>	2012	IIb	Corporate funding	27.7%	None
Guérin et al <sup>17</sup>	2012	IV	None	–	–
Lee et al <sup>19</sup>	2012	IV	None	77.3%	None
Huppert et al <sup>12</sup>	2011	IIb	Institutional funding	62%	None
Bao et al <sup>20</sup>	2011	IV	NDS	–	–
Jin et al <sup>21</sup>	2011	IV	NDS	47%	None
Yi et al <sup>14</sup>	2010	IV	Institutional funding	52.5%	–
Beaurain et al <sup>18</sup>	2009	IIb	NDS	67%	9.1% CDA
Park et al <sup>10</sup>	2008	IV	NDS	None	None
Kim et al <sup>15</sup>	2007	IV	NDS	None	None

**Note:** <sup>a</sup>LDR Spine USA, Inc., Austin, TX, USA.

**Abbreviations:** ACDF, anterior cervical discectomy and fusion; ASDG, adjacent segment degeneration; CDA, cervical disc arthroplasty; COI, conflict of interest; HO, heterotopic ossification; LOE, level of evidence; NDS, no disclosure section.

improved NDI, VAS, and Short-Form 36 (SF-36) scores, as well as maintained ROM, cervical lordosis, and sagittal alignment of the cervical spine, at 2 years postoperative. In a prospective analysis (n=71; mean follow-up 21 months),<sup>11</sup> the same authors identified the CDA HO rate as 27.7%. Twelve patients underwent two-level replacement. The authors found no significant differences in QOL outcomes (VAS neck/arm and SF-36) between one-level and two-level patients. No difference in QOL outcomes existed for patients with HO and those without. However, the authors found significantly lower HO rates in the two-level cohort (54.9% vs 66.7%,  $P<0.05$ ). Beaurain et al<sup>18</sup> reported on the intermediate results (n=76; mean 2-year follow-up) of an ongoing multicenter prospective study of CDA with the Mobi-C prosthesis. Their goal was to establish safety and efficacy of the procedure without comparison to ACDF. NDI, VAS arm/neck, and SF-36 scores improved significantly. ROM was maintained. HO rate was 67%, and ASDG rate was 9.1%. After 2 years, 91% of patients that underwent CDA reported they would do so again. Two-level operations were performed in nine (11.8%) patients, but one- and two-level cohorts were not compared.

Lee et al<sup>19</sup> retrospectively assessed 28 patients who underwent CDA with the Mobi-C device to determine the HO rate. At 2 years postoperative, 64.3% of patients (18/28) had developed HO. Cervical ROM was preserved in grades I or II HO (50%; 14/28 patients), but was restricted in grades III or IV (50%; 14/28 patients). However, HO did not correlate with worse QOL outcomes (NDI and VAS scores). Both NDI and VAS scores had significantly improved in all patients at 2 years postoperative. Bao et al<sup>20</sup> prospectively (16.5-month average follow-up) analyzed 20 patients who received Mobi-C CDA (five cases of two-level CDA) and found significantly ( $P<0.01$ ) improved NDI and VAS scores compared with the preoperative state. Jin et al<sup>21</sup> retrospectively analyzed patients (n=67) with cervical radiculopathy who underwent Mobi-C CDA. The cohort had a 1-year follow-up and showed significantly improved SF-36 and VAS QOL scores, as well as preserved ROM. Park et al<sup>22</sup> compared the Mobi-C, Bryan, Porous Coated Motion (PCM), and Prestige LP discs. The authors found that patients who received the Mobi-C or Bryan discs showed increased ROM at the index level but had a higher incidence of ASDG (14.2% and 25%, respectively) than patients who received either the Prestige LP or PCM discs (9% and 7.6%, respectively). Overall, all discs preserved ROM and cervical lordosis. Most recently, Oh et al<sup>23</sup> conducted a retrospective 18-month follow-up study (n=60) to evaluate clinical and radiologic outcomes after arthroplasty with the

Mobi-C prosthesis. All patients had degenerative disc disease (DDD) and were split into two cohorts: mild and severe, classified via a radiologic scale known as Pfirrmann grade. The authors found no difference in VAS, Oswestry Disability Index, or ROM between cohorts, but did show significant QOL outcome improvement at all follow-up points for both cohorts. Two studies by Yi et al<sup>13,14</sup> focused on identifying the HO rate for various types of cervical prostheses, including the Mobi-C disc, which had an HO rate of 52.5%.

## Two-level CDA

Huppert et al<sup>12</sup> analyzed the safety and efficacy of one-level vs two-level Mobi-C CDA for patients with cervical DDD (n=175 one-level, n=51 two-level). NDI and VAS arm/neck scores, as well as mobility, improved significantly for both cohorts, but with no significant difference between cohorts. In the two-level cohort, analgesic use was significantly higher while the HO rate was significantly lower than in the one-level cohort.

In a prospective, randomized, United States FDA investigational device exemption trial, Davis et al<sup>9</sup> compared Mobi-C CDA vs ACDF for two-level contiguous cervical DDD over a follow-up of 2 years (97% follow-up). Of the 330 patients enrolled, 225 (68%) underwent two-level CDA, and 105 (32%) underwent ACDF (2:1 ratio). Both cohorts experienced statistically significant improvements in NDI and VAS arm/neck scores compared with preoperative values. In addition, the CDA cohort experienced significantly greater improvement in NDI score than the ACDF cohort ( $P<0.05$ ). ROM was maintained at both treated segments. The reoperation rate was significantly higher in the ACDF cohort (11.4%) compared with the CDA cohort (3.1%). Lower adverse events were reported for the CDA cohort. Overall study success rates, defined as a combination of NDI improvement, no adverse events or reoperations, and radiographic success, were statistically superior for the CDA cohort compared with the ACDF cohort (69.7% vs 37.4%;  $P<0.01$ ). The authors provided only the Grade IV HO rate for CDA at 2 years (4.9%, eleven patients). ASDG rates were significantly lower for the CDA cohort vs ACDF cohort (16% vs 51%,  $P<0.03$ ).

## Discussion

The primary goal of CDA is to preserve or improve the ROM of the spine as well as prevent ASDG. In the United States, several different arthroplasty devices have undergone extensive investigational studies and subsequently been FDA-approved for use nationwide. Many different prosthetic

devices for CDA have been created, such as the ProDisc-C (Synthes Spine), Bryan (Medtronic Sofamor Danek), and Prestige (Medtronic Sofamor Danek). Each device differs by its fixed or mobile core, unconstrained or constrained nature, and location and type of device cores.<sup>22</sup> These differences impact cervical alignment and motion. Many different literature reviews and meta-analyses have been conducted that provide support for one-level CDA as a safe and effective alternative to one-level ACDF and, in many studies, superiority of the former over the latter.<sup>1-6</sup> Aghayev et al<sup>24</sup> showed that CDA also provides long-term (5-year) stability, pain alleviation, and QOL improvement. However, given that many patients with DDD require multilevel fusion, it is important to compare multilevel CDA to multilevel ACDF.

This multilevel comparison has been performed sparsely in the literature for CDA in general. In 2003, Goffin et al<sup>25</sup> reported clinical results at 1 year postoperative for two-level Bryan CDA (n=43) as clinically successful (ie, based on modified Odom's criteria) in over 96% of cases at 1-year follow-up. Cheng et al<sup>26</sup> conducted a randomized control trial of ACDF vs CDA with the Bryan prosthesis (n=65) for two-level cervical DDD. At 2 years postoperative, both cohorts saw significantly improved NDI and VAS scores, with the former being significantly more improved ( $P=0.02$ ) in the CDA cohort. Pimenta et al<sup>27</sup> conducted a prospective analysis (n=140) of one- vs two-level CDA with the PCM prosthesis (n=69 two-level, n=71 one-level; mean follow-up of 26 months). NDI scores were significantly more improved in the two-level cohort ( $P=0.02$ ). VAS score improvement and complication rates were similar between the cohorts. As identified in the present study, Huppert et al<sup>12</sup> found no significant differences among QOL outcomes between one- and two-level cohorts. In 2012, Kepler et al<sup>28</sup> conducted a literature review showing that there is insufficient evidence on multilevel CDA vs ACDF, with only the Huppert et al<sup>12</sup> study looking at the Mobi-C prosthesis, but not in comparison to ACDF. Since that article, only Davis et al<sup>9</sup> have conducted a study comparing two-level Mobi-C CDA vs two-level ACDF and, as discussed above, showed significant greater "success" rates for CDA.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the present study review: 1) one-level Mobi-C CDA is non-inferior, but not superior, to one-level ACDF for patients with cervical DDD; 2) the Mobi-C CDA procedure is associated with high rates of HO; and 3) two-level Mobi-C CDA may be superior to two-level ACDF, but substantial evidence is lacking beyond the findings of one study with a significant

COI. HO, defined as formation of bone outside the skeletal system with unknown etiology, is a well-known complication of CDA and is commonly identified on cervical lateral radiographs. In 2012, Chen et al<sup>29</sup> conducted a meta-analysis of HO after CDA and found a pooled prevalence of 44.6% 1 year after CDA. In the first study to publish the HO rate for the Mobi-C disc, Yi et al<sup>14</sup> retrospectively analyzed the occurrence of HO in patients (n=170; Bryan – 81, Mobi-C – 61, ProDisc-C – 28) who underwent CDA and stratified the overall HO rate (40.6%) by disc type: Bryan disc (21%), Mobi-C disc (52.5%), and ProDisc-C disc (71.4%). In a follow-up study with the same patient sample, Yi et al<sup>13</sup> sought to identify predisposing factors for HO after CDA. The authors found that only male sex (odds ratio [OR] of 2.117) and device type (OR of 5.262 and 7.449 for Mobi-C and ProDisc-C, respectively) were associated with a higher likelihood for development of HO. In a recently published review of CDA,<sup>1</sup> studies on Prestige discs reported the lowest HO rates (n=7 studies; 0%–3.2%), followed by Bryan discs (n=40 studies; 0%–17.8%), PCM discs (n=4 studies; 0%–38%), ProDisc-C discs (n=11 studies; 2.9%–88%), and finally Mobi-C discs (n=7 studies; 62%–94.1%). Differences in design, biomechanical characteristics, endplate articulation component, and surgical procedure could contribute to variations in HO by disc type. Besides differences in HO by disc type, differences may exist relative to one- or two-level disease. Wu et al<sup>30</sup> analyzed 70 patients (42 one-level, 28 two-level) who underwent CDA with the Bryan disc and found a higher HO rate in two-level patients (75% vs 40.5%;  $P<0.01$ ). Finally, the number of fusions after CDA complicated by severe HO was not quantified and would have impacted the success rate greatly.

While Davis et al<sup>9</sup> did show superiority of two-level Mobi-C vs two-level ACDF, any study receiving funding by the corporation (LDR Spine USA, Inc.) who manufactured the disc being studied raises questions about the validity of those results due to potential bias. Specifically, the reported HO rate of 4.9% by the study authors differs significantly from that reported by every other study included (range 27.7%–94.1%). In a study evaluating COI in the scientific literature, Bhandari et al<sup>31</sup> examined 332 randomized trials in 13 leading surgical and medical journals in order to determine whether an association existed between industry financial involvement and trial outcome(s). Industry funding was associated with a statistically significant supportive result (OR 1.9, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.3–3.5). After adjustment for study quality and sample size, the association remained significant (adjusted OR 1.8, 95% CI 1.1–3.0).

Given the rapidly growing market of CDA prostheses, estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, it is critical that potential biases are nullified and controlled in future studies on this topic.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, a comparison of surgical techniques for the same indication is not complete without a discussion of cost-effectiveness. Using Medicare national reimbursement amounts, CPT (current procedural terminology) codes, and DRG (diagnosis-related group) codes, procedural costs for one-level CDA and ACDF are US\$1,685 and US\$1,742, respectively, with additional levels adding on an extra US\$400 per level. Hospital costs for CDA and ACDF are US\$10,483 and US\$10,842, respectively.<sup>32–34</sup> Thus, overall the patient is not saving much money upfront in having CDA over ACDF. Nandyala et al<sup>35</sup> analyzed data from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample (2002–2009) and found that, indeed, no significant differences existed in overall hospital costs between ACDF and CDA patients. However, the key difference arises with QOL gained by the patient from the surgical procedures. Given near equal cost, if CDA produces greater gains in QOL for patients than ACDF, then it would be more cost effective than ACDF. In a decision-tree analysis, Qureshi et al<sup>36</sup> showed that CDA had the potential to be more cost effective than ACDF after 14 years follow-up. In a follow-up study involving the ProDisc prosthesis, the same authors identified no significant difference in QOL improvement scores between CDA and ACDF at 24 months follow-up.<sup>37</sup> In the present study, only Park et al<sup>10</sup> and Davis et al<sup>9</sup> compared Mobi-C CDA with ACDF. The former (no COI) found no differences in QOL outcomes at 12 months follow-up, while the latter (funded by LDR Spine USA, Inc.) found significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) improvement in NDI scores in the Mobi-C CDA cohort at 24 months follow-up. Thus, more studies are needed specifically comparing Mobi-C CDA with ACDF to be able to make conclusions on cost effectiveness.

The primary limitation of this review is how differences among study classification systems for HO or ASDG may impact the results presented here. Given a lack of exact definitions by each study, the complication rates assessed may never be completely comparable. This is a limitation of most systematic reviews of both prospective and retrospective studies.

## Conclusion

One-level Mobi-C CDA is non-inferior, but not superior, to one-level ACDF for patients with cervical DDD. The Mobi-C CDA procedure is associated with high rates of HO. Two-level Mobi-C CDA may be superior to two-level ACDF. However, insufficient evidence exists, thereby

mandating a need for unbiased, well-designed prospective studies with well-defined outcomes in the future.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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