

## **SUMMARY**

In the last years spinal surgery has evolved into a highly developed specialty. Spinal surgery is used for treatment of different spinal disorders via either anterior or posterior approach.

Anterior lumbar surgery is considered to be one of the developing surgeries. It was done for the first time in 1960 for treatment of tuberculous spondylitis.

In this essay the Embryology of the vertebral column is discussed.

A basic knowledge of spinal anatomy is critical for any surgeon undertaking a spinal operation. So a basic over view of the anatomy of the spine with special concern to the lumbar spine as well as to anatomy of the anterior approach to the lumbar spine is provided.

A basic understanding of the biomechanics of spinal stability, instability, and how this indicates any operative intervention is discussed.

Then the indications of anterior lumbar surgery are discussed; the clinical presentation, and investigation used in diagnosis of each, and how the anterior approach can be applied in the treatment of each disease.

The alternatives available for approaching the lumbar spine are: Traditional, minimally invasive and endoscopic with a hint about the newer evolving techniques with description of devices used for anterior instrumentation of the lumbar spine.

Postoperative care and management of postoperative problems are pointed to with mentioning the most important postoperative complications and possible management of the most important.