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1 **Antibiotic loaded bone graft for reduction of surgical site infection in spinal fusion**

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26 **Abstract**

27 Background Context: Infections remain a leading complication associated with spinal
28 arthrodesis, regardless of the use of prophylactic antibiotics and improved surgical techniques,
29 with incidence of infection as high as 8.2%. Infection prolongs antibiotic usage, increases
30 hospital time, and inevitably inflates overall treatment costs. Local antibiotics, such as
31 vancomycin, have been used in combination with fusion materials over the past decade to
32 decrease infection risk. An ideal graft material would serve a dual role: encourage vertebral
33 fusion while reducing incidence of infection.

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