

term microendoscopic discectomy for both endoscopic and microscopic procedures in his study. Before finalizing the research protocol for our study we had extensive discussions on the same issue of nomenclature and came to a conclusion that microendoscopic discectomy should be the umbrella term comprising both endoscope and microscope assisted procedures and authors should describe further in their studies that whether it was done by use of endoscope or microscope. The term microendoscopic and the tubular retractor assisted microdiscectomy though separate in terms of inventory are essentially the same as far as the technique and principles are concerned. We have tried to highlight the evident advantages of this technique rather than dwell upon the advantages or disadvantages of the visualization techniques. The difference here lies only in semantics.

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## Author's reply

Sir,

We appreciate the thoughtful letter<sup>1</sup> on our study “microendoscopic lumbar discectomy: Technique and results of 188 cases.”<sup>2</sup> We all agree that there should be consensus on nomenclature that should be standardized. Although many studies<sup>3-6</sup> refer microendoscopic discectomy as a tubular discectomy done with an endoscope, but the term is used interchangeably for describing the discectomy procedure utilizing tubular retractors either with an endoscope or a microscope.<sup>7,8</sup>

The primary author (AGK) has done spine fellowships in North America where the term is used interchangeably. Furthermore, the author has published a case report in *Spine* describing the microendoscopic technique using the microscope in excision of C2 osteoid osteoma.<sup>7</sup> A study by Palmer<sup>8</sup> also uses the

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