

Table 1. Data of included patients who underwent percutaneous endoscopic lumbar discectomy surgery

Characteristic	LBP	Non-LBP	Total	P value
Number of patients	108	60	168	-
Sex (female)	40 (37%)	20 (33.3%)	60 (35.7%)	0.815
Age (years)	43.85±10.63	42.72±11.48	43.42±10.90	0.580
BMI (kg/m²)	27.42±3.57	27.81±3.36	27.56±3.47	0.831
Segment				
L4-L5	68 (63%)	38 (63.3%)	106 (63.1%)	0.973
L5-S1	40 (37%)	22 (36.7%)	62 (36.9%)	
VAS LBP	7.66±1.80	-	7.66±1.80	0.000***
VAS leg pain	7.38±1.91	7.41±1.60	7.40±1.80	0.193
ODI	27.10±9.55	26.60±9.71	26.91±9.55	0.922
CSA of psoas muscle (mm²)	2903.22±596.86	3195.36±566.26	3013.20±599.28	0.594
CSA of paraspinal muscles (mm²)	4711.04±543.54	4816.87±935.69	4750.89±713.20	0.028*
CSA of multifidus muscle (mm²)	1948.85±292.29	1882.42±373.90	1923.84±324.85	0.340
Functional CSA of multifidus muscle (mm²)	1527.02±236.48	1645.03±347.47	1571.44±287.20	0.090
Fatty degeneration of multifidus muscle	0.79±0.10	0.88±0.06	0.82±0.10	0.000***

BMI - body mass index, LBP - low back pain, VAS - visual analogue scale, ODI – Oswestry disability index, CSA – cross-sectional area; Continuous data are presented as the mean ± standard deviation (SD). Dichotomous data are presented as numbers and percentages.

Significant difference * $P<0.05$, *** $P<0.001$ (independent t -test).