Surgical intensity is not the sole driver of prolonged opioid use; socioeconomic status, age, and mental health disorders may be risk factors too.

Risk factors for prolonged opioid use:
- High-intensity surgery
- Lower socioeconomic status
- Depression
- Younger age

Study criteria:
- 18-64 years
- 1-year TRICARE coverage pre- and post-surgery
- Opioid use 6 months pre-surgery
- Pre-surgery trauma or cancer

Spinal surgical interventions:
- Low-intensity surgeries: discectomy and decompression
- High-intensity surgeries: lumbar posterolateral arthrodesis and lumbar interbody arthrodesis

9,991 patients shortlisted for the analysis

84% of patients were prescribed opioids at discharge

Patients continuing opioid use post-surgery:
- 8% in 1 month
- 1% in 3 months
- 0.1% in 6 months
- 0.02% in 12 months

Risk Factors for Prolonged Opioid Use Following Spine Surgery, and the Association with Surgical Intensity, Among Opioid-Naïve Patients