

TABLE E-1 Experimental Design*

Defect Contents	Fixator Stiffness	Number of Rats
Collagen sponge	Low	4
Collagen sponge	Medium	4
Collagen sponge	High	4
Collagen sponge and BMP-2	Low	12
Collagen sponge and BMP-2	Medium	12
Collagen sponge and BMP-2	High	12
Collagen sponge and BMP-2	Reverse dynamization	12

*Groups of rats were assigned to experimental groups as indicated. Recombinant human BMP-2 (11 µg) was implanted on a collagen sponge. For the reverse dynamization group, the stiffness of the fixator was changed from low to high after two weeks. Animals were examined with weekly radiographs and were killed after eight weeks. All specimens were assessed with dual x-ray absorptiometry and microcomputed tomography. Nine specimens from each group were subjected to mechanical testing, and three were processed for histological analysis.