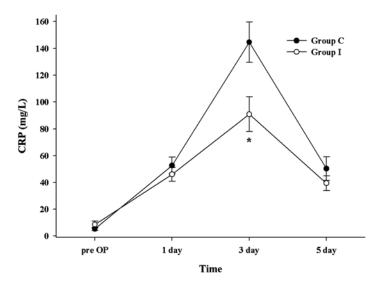
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## Fig. E-1

Line graph showing perioperative C-reactive protein (CRP) level. The values are expressed as mean and the standard error. \*Significantly different compared with the control group (p < 0.05). Group C = control group and Group I = injection group.

	Control Group* ( $N = 34$ )	Injection Group* ( $N = 32$ )
Age† (yr)	61.00 (56.00 to 71.00)	65.00 (60.00 to 71.00)
Male:female ratio (no. of patients)	16:18	10:22
ASA I/II/III‡ (no. patients)	5/24/5	8/21/3
Height ( <i>cm</i> )	159.65 ± 8.47	$160.94 \pm 7.50$
Weight ( <i>kg</i> )	$67.69 \pm 12.10$	$64.10 \pm 8.93$
Duration of operation <sup>†</sup> ( <i>min</i> )	107.50 (55.00 to 146.25)	107.50 (80.00 to 140.00)
Operative level (no. of patients)		
L3-L4	4	5
L4-L5	22	20
L5-S1	8	7
Preoperative numeric rating scale score	4.71 ± 1.61	$4.97\pm0.97$
Preoperative Oswestry Disability Index	$24.71 \pm 8.42$	$23.47 \pm 6.93$

\*The values are expressed as the mean and the standard deviation, the median and interquartile range, or the absolute number. †The Mann-Whitney U test was used and the values are expressed as the median and interquartile range because of abnormal distribution. ‡American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status.