| **Variable** | **Encoding Convention** |
| --- | --- |
| BMI | * <18 → 0 * 18-25 → 1 * 25-30 → 2 * 30-35 → 3 * >35 → 4 |
| Sex | * Female = 1 * Male = 0 |
| Type of Approach | * 1 → ACDF * 2 → LP * 3 → LWOF * 4 → ACCF * 5 → LWF * 6 → Foraminotomy * 7 → CDR |
| Previous Cervical Surgery | * Yes → 1 * No → 0 |
| Smoking Status | * Yes → 1 * No → 0 |
| NDI | * As a number between 0 and one   (ex. 0.77) |
| N° of levels (sites) of cervical pathologies: | * 1 → 1 * 2 → 2 * 3 → 3 * 4 → 4 * 5 → 5 |
| N° of levels of radiological myelopathy: | * 0 → 0 * 1 → 1 * 2 → 2 * 3 → 3 * 4 → 4 |
| Extent of Compression: | * Disc level → 1 * Disc and vertebral body → 2 |
| Predominance of Site of Compression: | * Anterior → 1 * Both → 2 * Posterior → 3 |
| Type of Compression: | * “Soft” → 1 * “Hard” or calcified → 2 |
| Cervical Alignment: | * Kyphotic → 2 * Neutral → 1 * Lordotic → 0 |

**Table X) Variables Encoding Table**