



## MIS Spine: Where are we?

- "Targeted MIS" based on *clinical presentation and radiology findings*
  - Treat pathology
  - Minimize overtreatment
  - "Surgical Strike" vs. "Carpet Bombing"
- MIS technique principles
  - Contralateral decompression
  - Minimize iatrogenic instability
  - Indirect decompression
- Minimize fusion need
- "Total Navigation"

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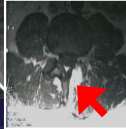
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## MIS Principles

- Avoid muscle injury by ...
  - » Muscle splitting self-retaining retractors
  - » Limiting the width of the surgical corridor
  - » Using known anatomic neurovascular and muscle planes
- Do not disrupt tendon attachment of key muscles, particularly at the SP



Scientific Basis of Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery  
Prevention of Multifidus Muscle Injury During Posterior Lumbar Surgery  
Chall W. Kim, MD, PhD\*

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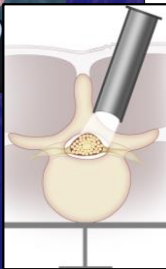
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HAE-DONG JHO, MD, PHD



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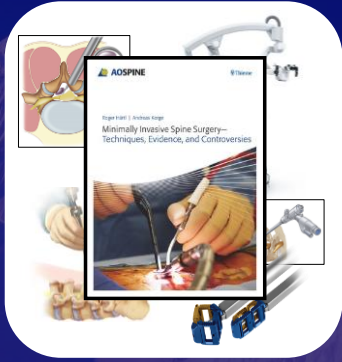
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## The (cool) tools we use in MIS surgery...

- Tubes
- Microscopes / Endoscopes
- 3D Navigation System "GPS of the Spine"
- Implants

• Sorry...no lasers !




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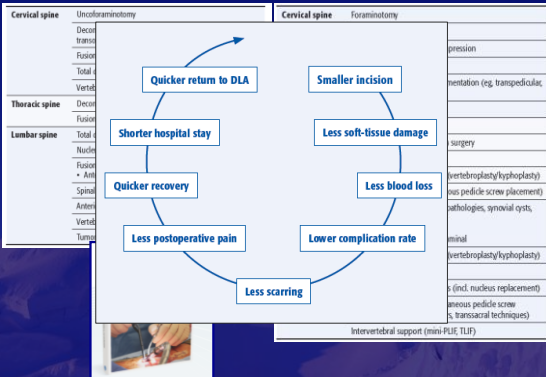
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## Anterior and Posterior MIS Approaches




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## Spinal MIS

- Three Principles of Spinal MIS:
  1. Contralateral Decompression
  2. Minimize Instability
  3. Indirect Decompression

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# 1. Principle

- **Contralateral Decompression:**
  - You can perform a bilateral decompression and a contralateral foraminotomy through a unilateral minimally invasive approach

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## Bilateral Decompression *via* Unilateral Approach

Acta Neurochir (Wien) (1997) 139: 392–396

Acta Neurochirurgica  
© Springer-Verlag 1997  
Printed in Austria

1997

### Unilateral Laminotomy for Bilateral Decompression of Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

#### Part I: Anatomical and Surgical Considerations

U. Spetzger<sup>1</sup>, H. Bertalanffy<sup>1</sup>, C. Naujokat<sup>2</sup>, D. G. v. Keyserlingk<sup>2</sup>, and J. M. Gillsbach<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Neurosurgery and <sup>2</sup> Department of Anatomy, Medical Faculty, Technical University of Aachen, Federal Republic of Germany

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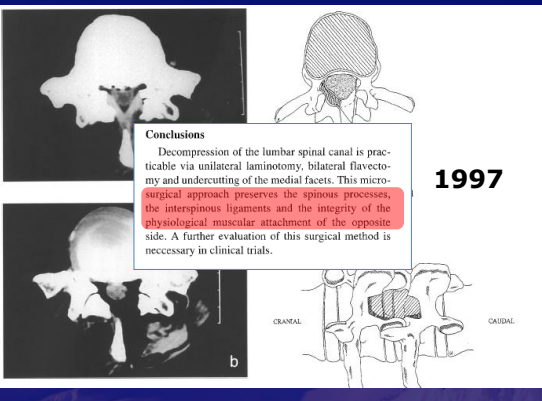
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**Conclusions**

Decompression of the lumbar spinal canal is practicable via unilateral laminotomy, bilateral flavectomy and undercutting of the medial facets. This microsurgical approach preserves the spinous processes, the interspinous ligaments and the integrity of the physiological muscular attachment of the opposite side. A further evaluation of this surgical method is necessary in clinical trials.

1997

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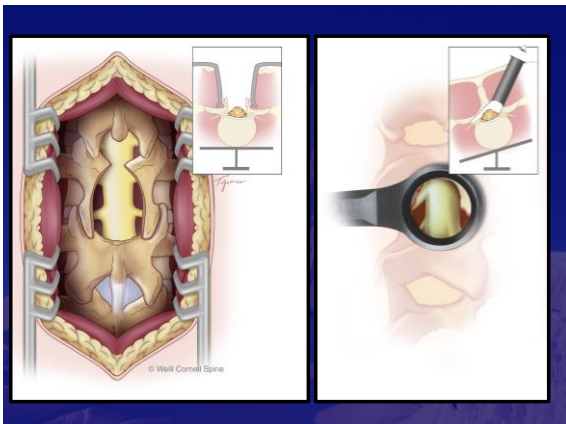
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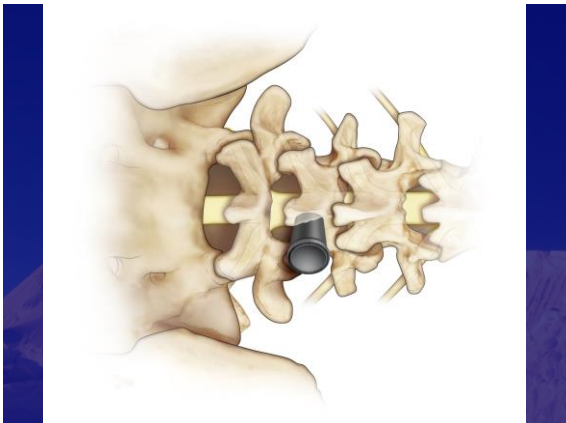
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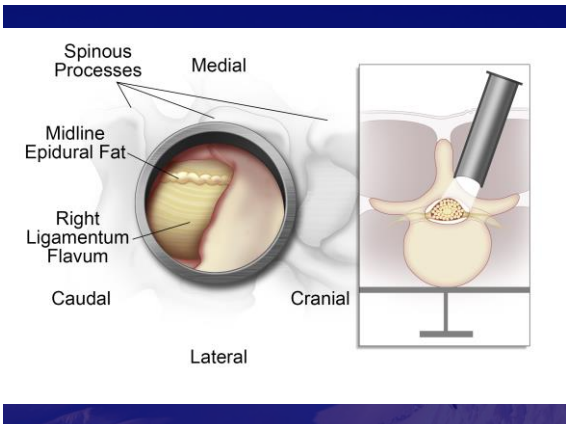
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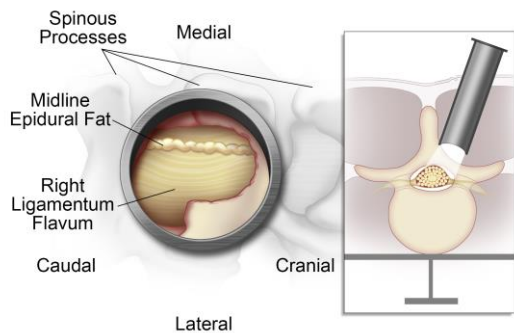
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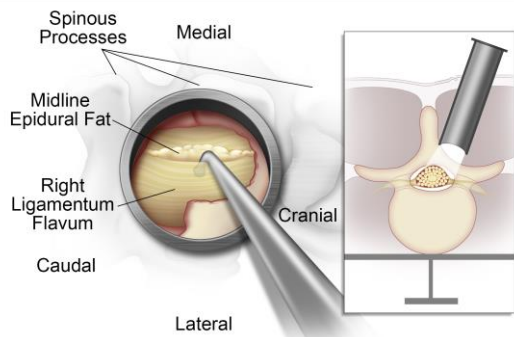
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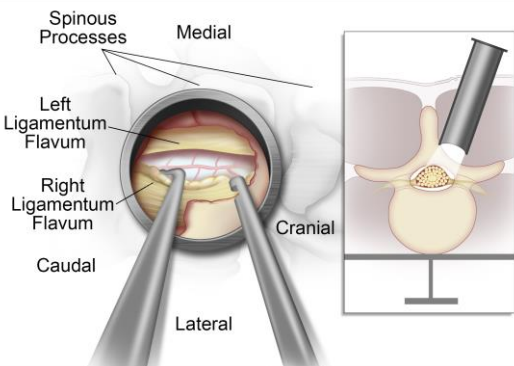
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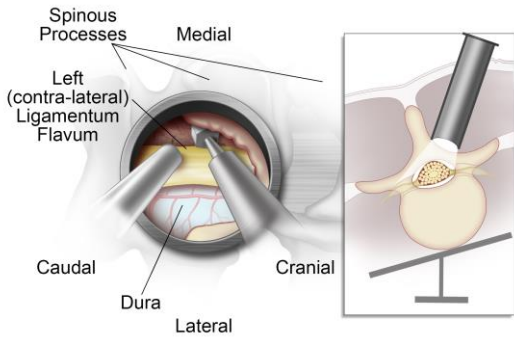
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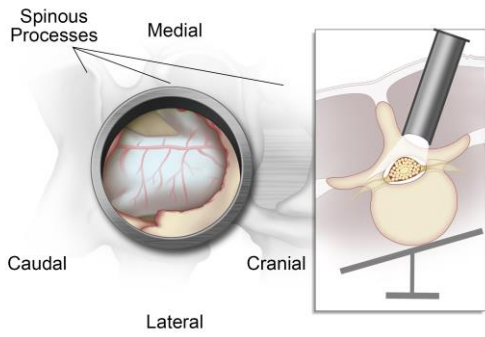
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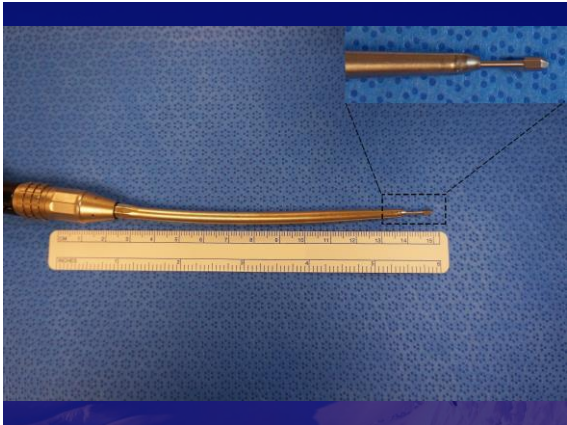
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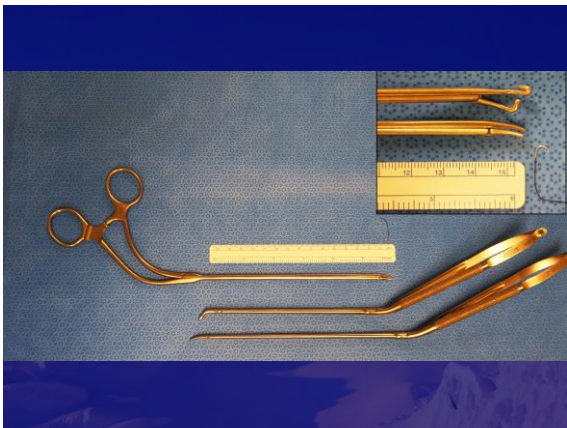
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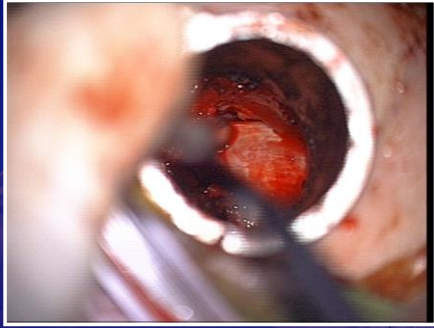
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## Contralateral Decompression



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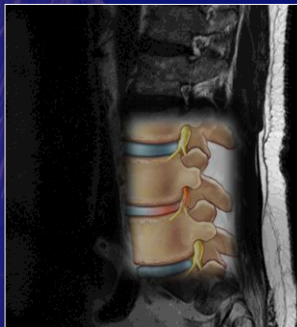
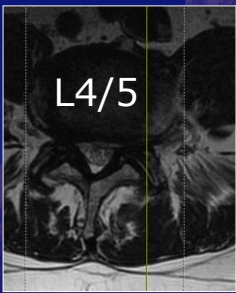
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## 81 y/o M with left L4 radiculopathy



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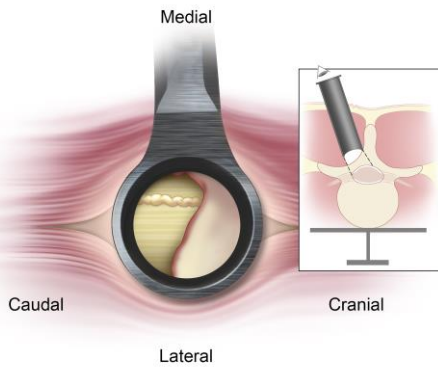
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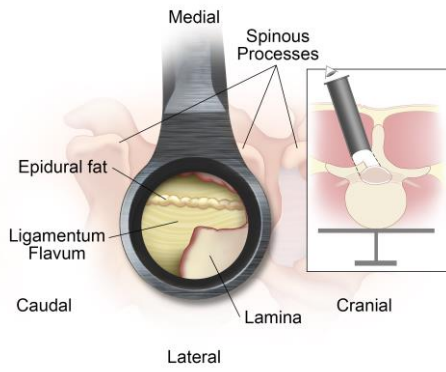
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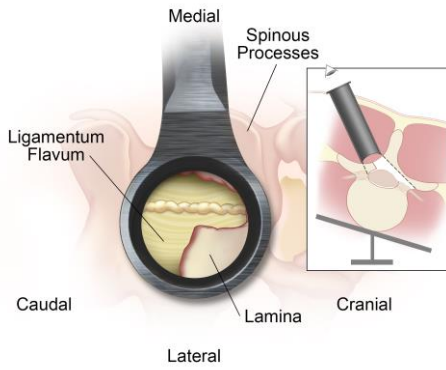
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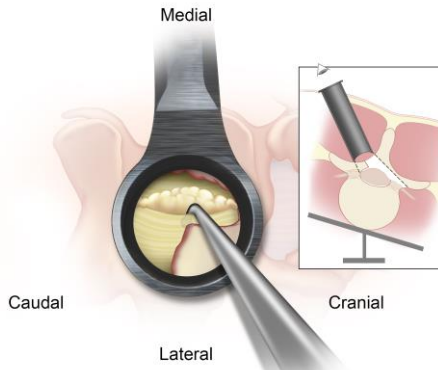
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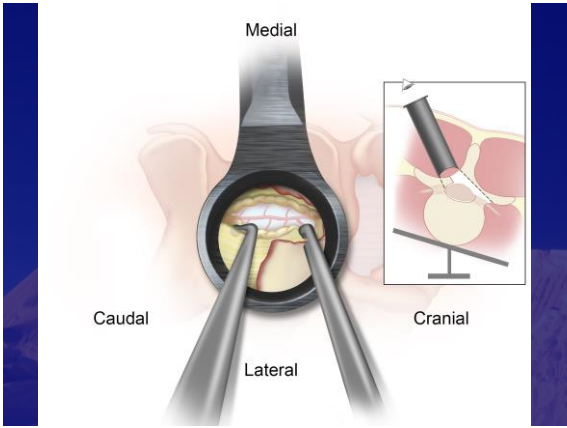
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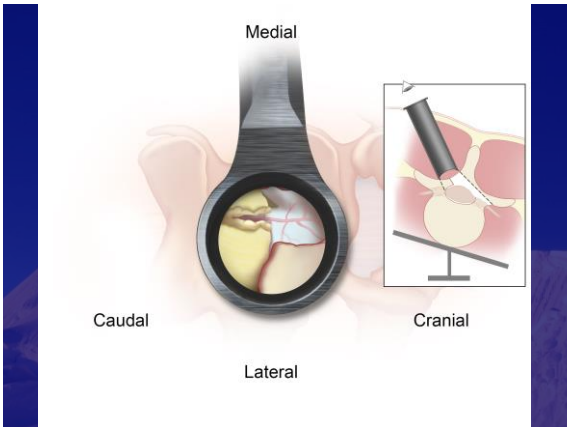
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**Minimally Invasive Options for Spinal Stenosis**

Joshua D. Marc...

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Seminars in  
**SPINE SURGERY**

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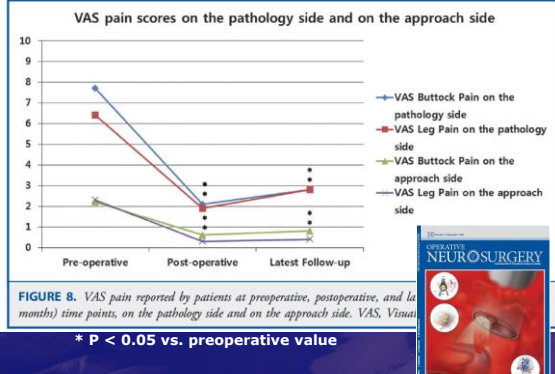
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## Clinical outcome




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## Next Steps

Journal of Clinical Neuroscience 22 (2015) 730–734

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Clinical Neuroscience

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jocn](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jocn)



Clinical Study

Endoscopic lumbar foraminotomy

Alexander L. Evins<sup>a</sup>, Matei A. Banu<sup>a</sup>, Innocent Njoku Jr.<sup>a</sup>, Eric H. Elowitz<sup>a</sup>, Roger Härd<sup>a</sup>, Antonio Bernado<sup>a</sup>, Christoph P. Hofstetter<sup>b,c</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Department of Neurological Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY, USA  
<sup>b</sup>Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle, WA, USA




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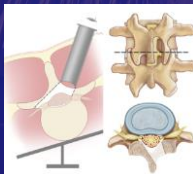
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## 1. Principle

- **Contralateral decompression:**
  - You can perform a bilateral decompression and a contralateral foraminotomy through a unilateral minimally invasive approach




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## 2. Principle

- **Minimalize Instability:**
  - Minimally invasive spinal decompression can reduce iatrogenic instability and reduce the need for instrumentation and fusion

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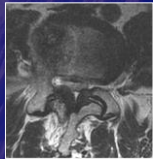
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## Decompression or Decompression / Fusion ?

60 y/o F with stenosis & Grade I Spondylolisthesis



Also more recent: Kambium, et al. Spine, 2008

J Neurosurg Spine 20(7):655, 2007

Guidelines for the performance of fusion procedures for degenerative disease of the lumbar spine. Part 9: fusion in patients with stenosis and spondylolisthesis

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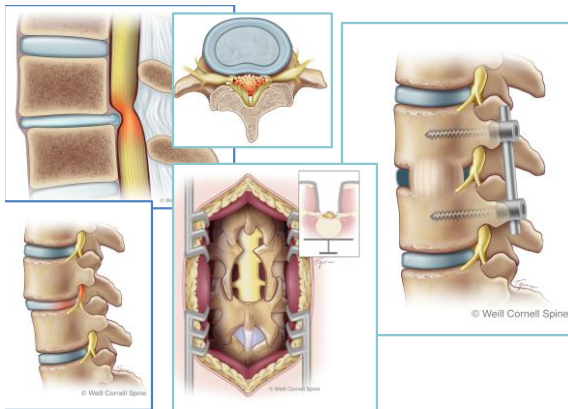
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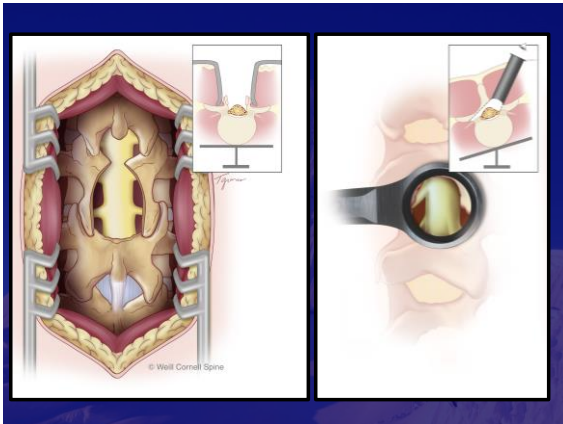
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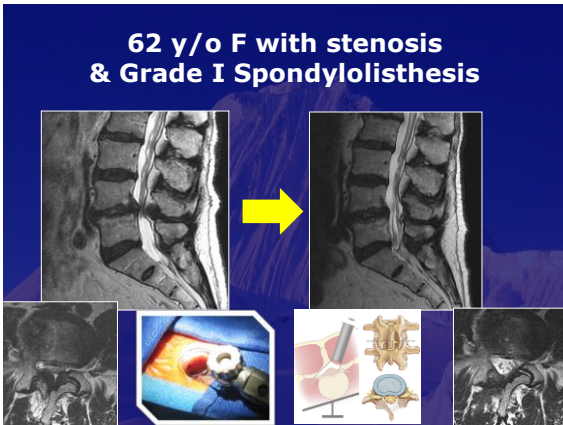
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**Minimally invasive laminectomy for lumbar spinal stenosis in patients with and without preoperative spondylolisthesis: clinical outcome and reoperation rates**

Marjan Alimi, MD, Christoph P. Hofstetter, MD, PhD, Se Young Pyo, MD, PhD, Danika Paulo, BS, and Roger Härtl, MD

Well Cornell Brain and Spine Center, Department of Neurological Surgery, Well Cornell Medical Hospital, New York, New York

**110 patients**

**Mean F/U > 2 years**

**54% spondylolisthesis**

**Routine Fusion is not indicated in all patients with LSS and spondylolisthesis**

**Blumenfeld et al.**

CONCLUSIONS Minimally invasive laminectomy is an effective procedure for the treatment of LSS. Reoperation rates for instability are lower than those reported after open laminectomy. Functional improvement is similar in patients with and without preoperative spondylolisthesis. This procedure can be an alternative to open laminectomy. Routine fusion may not be indicated in all patients with LSS and spondylolisthesis.

KEY WORDS lumbar spinal stenosis; spondylolisthesis; minimally invasive laminectomy; Disability Index; visual analog scale; reoperation

J Neurosurg Spine January 30, 2015

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## MIS = "Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery"

...or...

## "Minimal Instrumentation Surgery"

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### Case Example: Spinal stenosis and facet joint cyst

- 65 y/o M with leg pain and neurogenic claudication
- Failed PT and epidural steroid injections



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## MIS decompression instead of fusion...

1. Lumbar spinal stenosis with stable spondylolisthesis
2. Unilateral foraminal stenosis
3. Lumbar stenosis adjacent to a level that requires fusion

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## MIS = "Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery"

...or...

## "Minimal Instrumentation Surgery"

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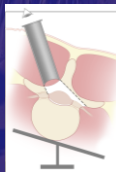
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## 1. Principle

- **Contralateral decompression:**
  - You can perform a bilateral decompression and a contralateral foraminotomy through a unilateral minimally invasive approach



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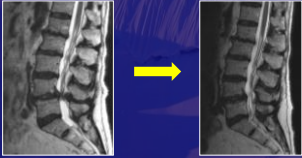
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## 2. Principle

- **Minimalize Instability:**
  - Minimally invasive spinal decompression can reduce iatrogenic instability and reduce the need for instrumentation and fusion




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## 3. Principle

- **Indirect decompression:**
  - Minimally invasive spinal surgery allows *indirect* decompression of central and foraminal stenosis in selected patients

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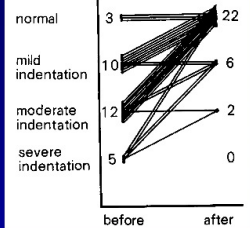
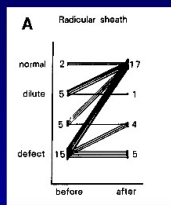
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## Indirect Decompression

Anterior Discectomy and Interbody Fusion for Lumbar Disc Herniation  
A Review of 350 Cases

Number 183  
March, 1984

SHUN-ICHI INOUE, M.D., Ph.D.,\* TSUNGO WATANABE, M.D., AKIRA HIROSE, M.D.,  
TAKASHI TANAKA, M.D., NOBUO MATSUI, M.D., Ph.D.,\*\*  
OSAMU SAEGUSA, M.D., AND EKIRYU SHO, M.D., Ph.D.




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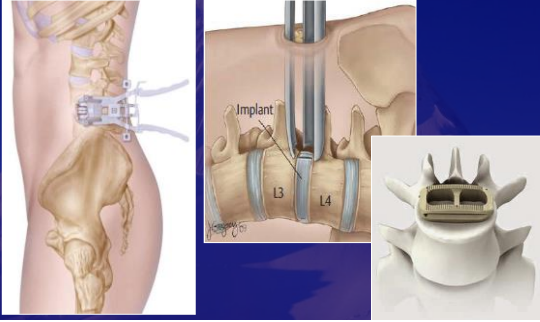
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## Lateral access / Transpsoas Surgery / ELIF / XLIF



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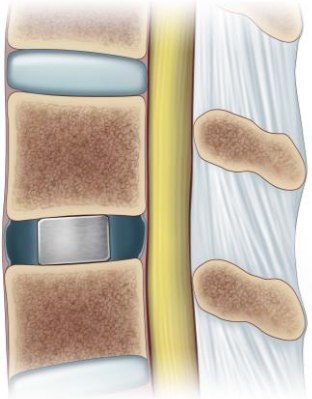
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## Indirect Decompression



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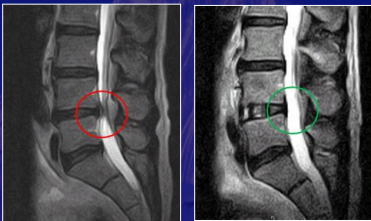
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## Indirect Decompression



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**67 y/o Male with right L3/4 radicular pain, minimal back pain**



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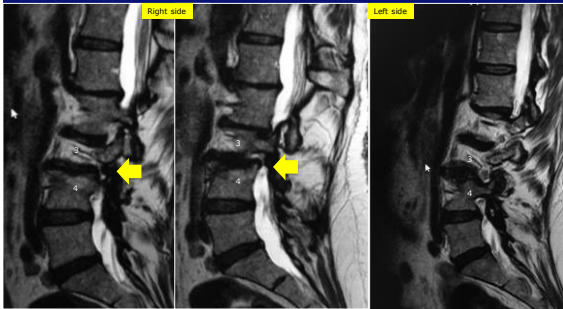
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**Right L3/L4 Foraminal Stenosis**



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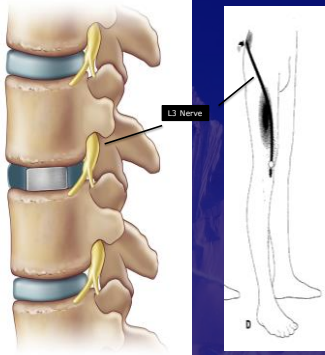
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**Indirect Decompression**



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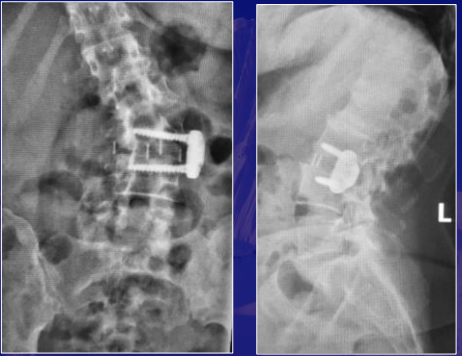
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**15 months postoperative**



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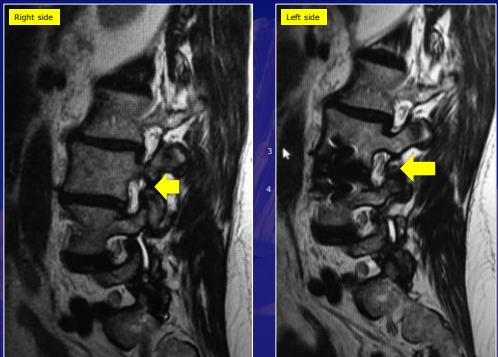
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**15 months postoperative**



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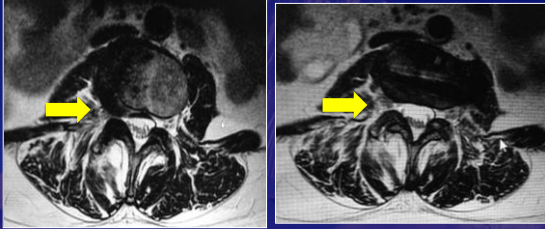
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## Pre vs. 15 months postoperative

L3/L4



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Eur Spine J (2015) 24 (Suppl 3):S346–S352  
DOI 10.1007/s00586-015-3940-z



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Extreme lateral interbody fusion for unilateral symptomatic vertical foraminal stenosis

Marjan Alimi<sup>1</sup> · Christoph P. Hofstetter<sup>1</sup> · Apostolos J. Tsiouris<sup>2</sup> · Eric Elowitz<sup>1</sup> · Roger Härtl<sup>1</sup>

- 23 patients with unilateral leg pain and foraminal stenosis
- 1 year follow – up
- Single-level XLIF is an effective procedure for unilateral foraminal stenosis & radiculopathy

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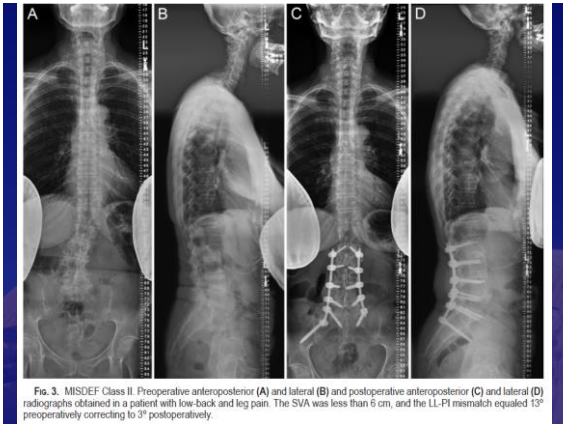
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## "TOTAL" Navigation

We eliminate fluoroscopy in 70% of our cases

- ✓ Skin incision
- ✓ Screw size and planning (no K-wires)
- ✓ Screw placement
- ✓ Tubular retractor placement
- ✓ Decompression
- ✓ Cage placement
- ✓ Rod measurement
- ✓ Final CT check
- Other indications → localization
  - Cervical foraminotomies
  - Spinal tumor
  - Thoracic disc herniations

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## MIS Spine: Where are we?

- "Targeted MIS" based on *clinical presentation* and *radiology findings*
  - Treat pathology
  - Minimize overtreatment
  - "Surgical Strike" vs. "Carpet Bombing"
- MIS technique principles
  - Contralateral decompression
  - Minimize iatrogenic instability
  - Indirect decompression
- Minimize fusion need
- "Total Navigation"

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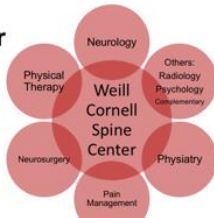
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It's a team sport:

### Weill Cornell Spine Center



<http://weillcornellbrainandspine.org/spine>



- **Care:** Clinical Excellence
- **Discover:** Research
- **Teach:** Education

Weill Cornell Medicine

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**Types of back pain**

- **Neurogenic claudication**
  - Lumbar stenosis
- **Radicular pain**
  - Lateral recess
  - Disc herniation
  - Foraminal stenosis
- **Mechanical back pain**
  - Instability
  - Facets
  - imbalance

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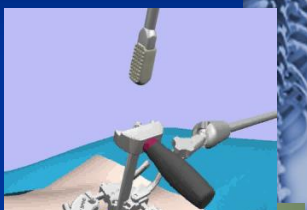
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# Minimally Invasive Thoracic Decompressions



Larry T. Khoo, MD

The Spine Clinic of Los Angeles  
At Good Samaritan Hospital  
An Affiliate of the University of Southern California



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## DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT

Major: Zimmer, Globus, Spineguard, Medacta

Minor: Aesculap, Mallinckrodt



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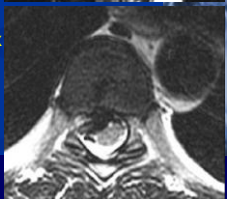
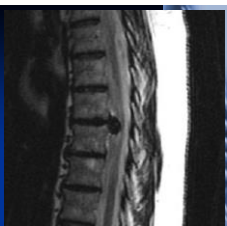
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## Case Presentation Surgical Technique

- ❖ 58 yo RH physician
- ❖ Sudden onset of thoracic pain
- ❖ No history of trauma
- ❖ 6 wk history of progressive gait sx
- ❖ Bladder incontinence
- ❖ Rt sided trunk / leg numbness
- ❖ 3+ DTR, ataxia, dec rectal tone
- ❖ 8/10 mid thoracic pain



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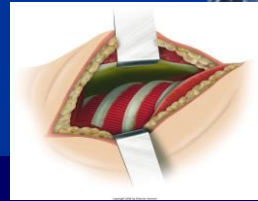
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## Ventrolateral Approaches

- Advantages
  - Ventrolateral exposure of disc space and ventral spinal canal
  - Midline, densely calcified discs and intradural fragments
  - Ventral dural repairs and reconstruction
  - Multiple discs




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## Thoracotomy - Disadvantages



- ❖ Approach morbidity of 14% in large multicenter study (Spine 1995), n=770
  - Post thoracotomy syndrome
  - Abdominal relaxation
  - Poor cosmesis & rib deformity
- ❖ High overall morbidity (24%):
  - wound infection, radiculopathy, aortic laceration, Horner's syndrome, pleural effusion, pneumothorax, hemothorax, chylothorax, brachial plexus injury, lung herniation, renal failure, pneumocephalus and chronic pain




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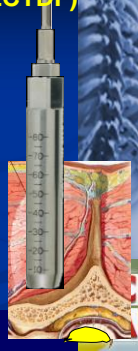
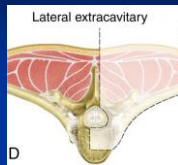
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## Minimally Invasive Extracavitary Thoracic Discectomy and Fusion (MI-ECTDF)

- Provides good angle of decompression
- Decreased Neural Retraction
- Combine with minimally invasive technologies and principles




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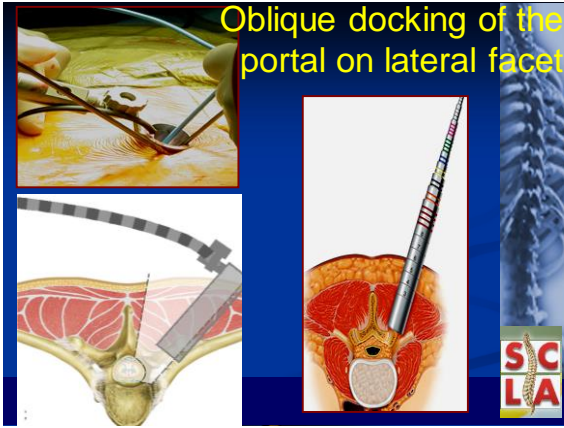
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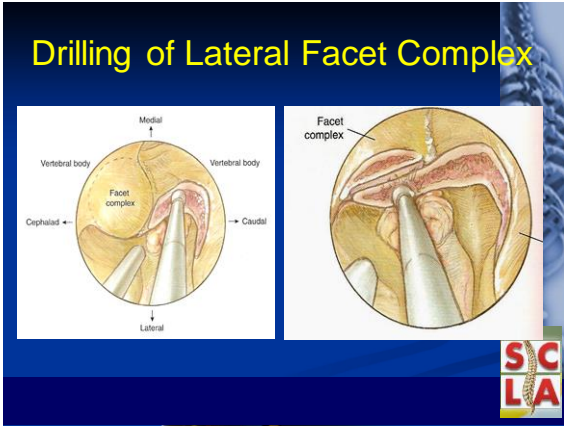
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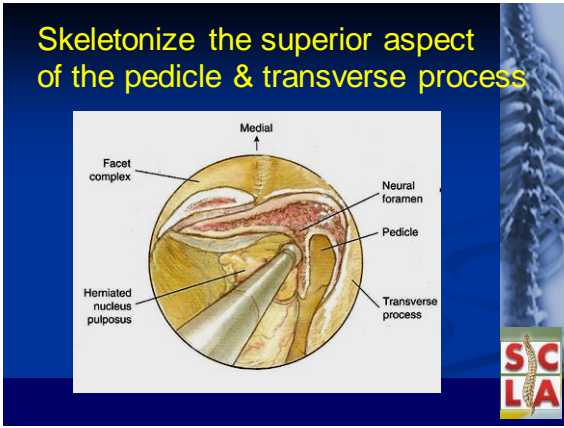
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### Discectomy with minimal retraction of the spinal cord

Medial

Facet complex

Cord

Transverse process

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### Insertion of Soft PLIF material, followed by interbody cage (to prevent pain and recurrence)

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### Postop Course

- ❖ OR time 2 hours
- ❖ EBL 25cc
- ❖ Full motor recovery
- ❖ Residual mild rt numbness
- ❖ Bladder issues resolved
- ❖ 24 month followup
- ❖ No further back pain

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Journal of Neurosurgery Spine: Jan 2011

Minimally invasive extracavitary approach for thoracic discectomy and interbody fusion: 1-year clinical and radiographic outcomes in 13 patients compared with a cohort of traditional anterior transthoracic approaches

Clinical article

LARRY T. KHOO, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> ZACHARY A. SMITH, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> FARROD ASGARZADEH, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> YORGIOZ BARLAS, M.D.,<sup>2</sup> SEAN S. ARMIN, M.D.,<sup>3</sup> VARTAN TASHIRIAN, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> AND BARON ZARATE, M.D.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Neurological Surgery, University of California, Los Angeles, California; <sup>2</sup>Department of Neurological Surgery, General Hospital of Nikea, Athens, Greece; <sup>3</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California; and <sup>4</sup>Department of Spinal Surgery, Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación, Mexico City, Mexico

**Object.** Open transthoracic approaches, considered the standard in treating thoracic disc herniation (TDH), are associated with significant comorbidities. The authors describe a minimally invasive lateral extracavitary tubular approach for discectomy and fusion (MI-ECTDF) to treat TDH.

**Methods.** In 13 patients (5 men, 8 women; mean age 51.8 years) with myelopathy and 15 noncalcified TDHs, the authors achieved a facilateral trajectory by dilating percutaneously to a 20-mm working portal docked at the transverse process–facet junction, which then provided a corridor for a near-total discectomy, bilateral laminotomies, and interbody arthrodesis requiring minimal cord retraction. A cohort of 11 demographically comparable patients treated via transthoracic approaches was used as control.

**Results.** Preoperative Frankel grades were B in 1 patient, C in 4, D in 5, and E in 3, whereas at mean of 10 months, 11 had Grade E function and 2 had Grade D function. Mean surgical metrics were operating room time 93.75 minutes, blood loss 33 ml, and hospital stay 3.1 days. Complications included 4 transient paresthesias, 1 CSF leak, 1 abdominal wall weakness, and 3 nonwound infections. One-year follow-up MR imaging revealed full decompression in all cases and no cage migration. Mean visual analog scales scores preoperative, at 6 weeks, 3 months, and 1 year were 5.6, 4.5, 3.2, and 1.2, respectively. No differences existed in preoperative clinical and radiographic profile of the study and control groups. Compared with controls, the MI-ECTDF group achieved superior scores in all metrics ( $p < 0.01$ ) except for equivalent 1-year neurological outcomes.

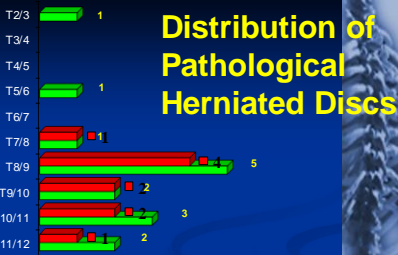
**Conclusions.** Compared with transthoracic procedures, MI-ECTDF effectively decompressed the spinal canal, yielding identical 1-year radiographic and clinical outcomes to those seen in controls, while producing superior clinical scores in the interim. Thus, MI-ECTDF is the authors' treatment of choice for TDH.

**KEY WORDS** • minimally invasive surgery • thoracic discectomy • extracavitary approach • transthoracic approach • interbody fusion

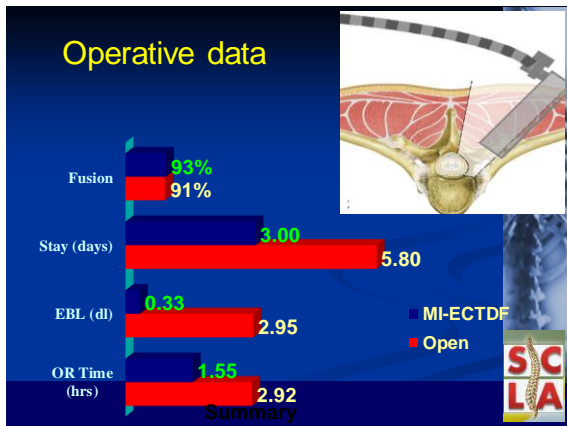
Patients & Methods

- ❖ Prospective, non-randomized study
- ❖ Class II / III study, Single surgical group
- ❖ All with cord compression / myelopathy
- ❖ Mean duration sx- 4.2 months
- ❖ Total of 24 patients, 1 year f/u
- ❖ Two arms:
  - ✓ 11 – Open mini-thoracotomy (52.5y, 5 men, 6 women)
  - ✓ 13 – Min Invasive EC-TDF (51.8 y, 4 men, 9 women)

Distribution of Pathological Herniated Discs



- ✓ 11 single, 2 two levels – MI-ECTDF
- ✓ 10 single, 1 two levels – OPEN
- ✓ Very similar co-morbidity index




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### Complications

	MI-ECTDF	Open
✓ CSF leaks	1	3
✓ Radicular Numbness	1	9
✓ Trunk wall weakness	1	6
✓ Trunk wall hyperesth	1	4
✓ Wound Infection	1	3

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### Peri-operative Course

(4.2x risk ratio, p<.01)

	MI-ECTDF	Open
✓ Chest Tube Drainage	0	11 (1.5d)
✓ Early Wound Infection	0	2
✓ Pts in ICU postop	0	7 (1.25d)
✓ Transfusion	0	4
✓ Pneumonia	0	3
✓ Urinary Tract Infect	1	4
✓ DVT	1	3
✓ Cardiac Events	1	2
✓ Hematoma	0	1
✓ Prolonged Ileus	0	2

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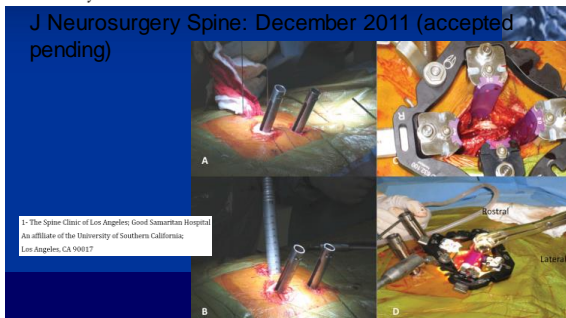
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Minimally invasive lateral extracavitary corpectomy – Cadaveric evaluation model and report of three clinical cases

Zachary A. Smith, M.D.<sup>1</sup>, Zhenzhou Li, M.D.<sup>2</sup>, Nan-Fu Chen, M.D.<sup>1</sup>, Dan Raphael, PA-C<sup>1</sup>, Larry T. Khoo M.D.<sup>1</sup>




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**Table 1 : Radiographic Measurements in 6 Cadavers**

Patient No.	Corpectomy Level	Anterior Vertebral Height		Posterior Vertebral Height		Cobb Angle	
		Pre-op	Post-op	Pre-op	Post-op	Pre-op	Post-op
		Patient 1	T8	2.67 cm	3.03 cm	2.93 cm	3.56 cm
Patient 2	T8	2.30 cm	3.17 cm	2.71 cm	3.23 cm	29 deg	18 deg
Patient 3	T8	2.91 cm	3.38 cm	3.05 cm	3.21 cm	11 deg	1 deg
Patient 4	T12	3.05 cm	3.76 cm	3.28 cm	4.97 cm	16 deg	8 deg
Patient 5	T12	3.76 cm	4.03 cm	3.79 cm	4.17 cm	7 deg	3 deg
Patient 6	T12	2.97 cm	3.14 cm	3.00 cm	3.32 cm	10 deg	8 deg
<b>Mean</b>		<b>2.94 cm</b>	<b>3.41 cm</b>	<b>3.13 cm</b>	<b>3.74 cm</b>	<b>17.2 deg</b>	<b>9.7 deg</b>

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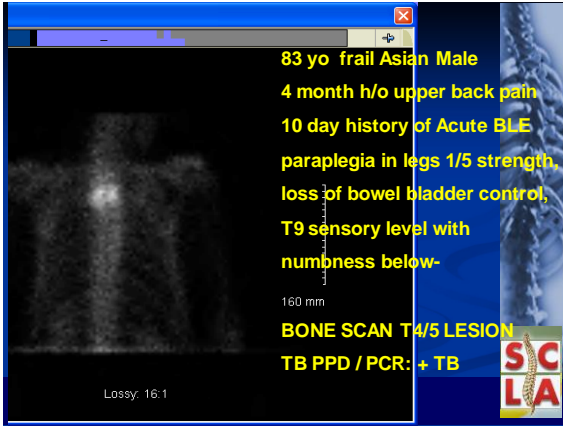
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83 yo frail Asian Male  
4 month h/o upper back pain  
10 day history of Acute BLE  
paraplegia in legs 1/5 strength,  
loss of bowel bladder control,  
T9 sensory level with  
numbness below-

160 mm

BONE SCAN T4/5 LESION  
TB PPD / PCR: + TB

Lossy: 16:1

SIC LA

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### T4/5 Pathological Fracture-Dislocation 3 Col Injury-CT, kyphotic angulation



42°

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SIC LA

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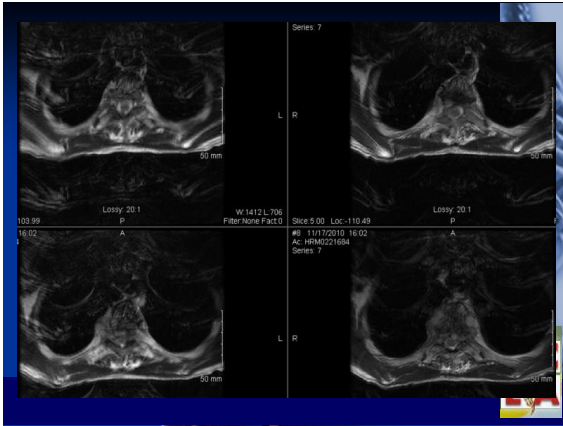
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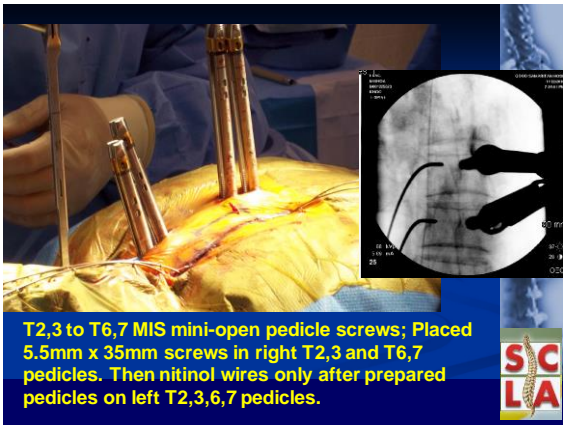
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T2,3 to T6,7 MIS mini-open pedicle screws; Placed 5.5mm x 35mm screws in right T2,3 and T6,7 pedicles. Then nitinol wires right only after prepared pedicles on left T2,3,6,7 pedicles.

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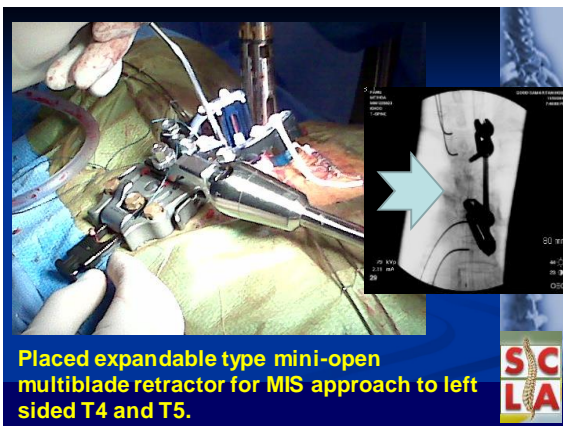
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Placed expandable type mini-open multiblade retractor for MIS approach to left sided T4 and T5.

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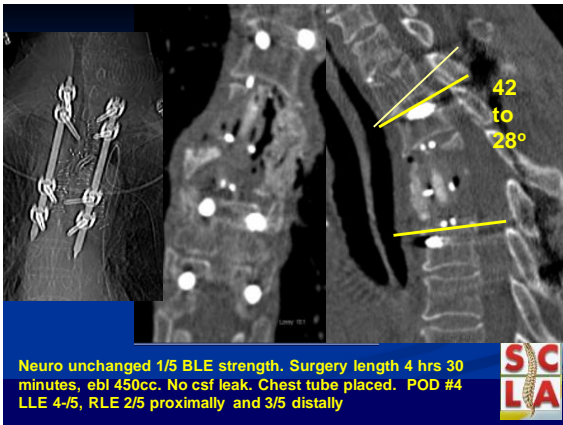
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### THE FAR LATERAL POSTERIOR EXTRACAVITARY APPROACH CORRIDOR

- Provides good angle of decompression
- Decreased Neural Retraction
- Key is actual an OBLIQUE approach to the anterior spine
- Combine with minimally invasive technologies and principles

Lateral extracavitary

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# THANK YOU



**Larry T. Khoo, MD**  
The Spine Clinic of Los Angeles  
At Good Samaritan Hospital  
An Affiliate of the University of Southern California



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# Indications and Techniques for Minimally Invasive Cervical Laminoforaminotomy using a Tubular Retractor

Kevin T. Foley, M.D.  
Professor of Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, & Biomedical Engineering  
Semmes-Murphey Clinic & University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis

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## Disclosures

- Consultant to Medtronic
- Royalties from Medtronic
- BOD member and stockholder for BioD, Discgenics, & TrueVision
- Ownership (stock) in Medtronic, NuVasive, and SpineWave

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## History

**Historically, surgery for cervical radiculopathy was posterior.**

- Stookey B. Compression of the spinal cord due to ventral extradural cervical chordomas: diagnosis and surgical treatment. Arch Neurol Psychiat 1928; 20: 279-291
- Semmes RE. Diagnosis of ruptured intervertebral disk without contrast myelography and comment on recent experience with modified hemilaminectomy for their removal. Yale J Biol & Med 1939; 11: 433-435.

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## Posterior Cervical Discectomy Indications

- Cervical radiculopathy recalcitrant to nonoperative management
- Disc herniation, osteophyte, or foraminal stenosis producing nerve root compression that correlates with the patient's clinical presentation
- No evidence of instability

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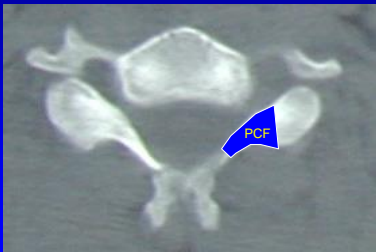
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## Posterior Cervical Foraminotomy



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## Posterior Cervical Discectomy Contra-indications

- Central compressive lesion (disc and/or osteophyte)
- Ventral spinal cord compression
- Cervical spine instability
- Significant mechanical neck pain

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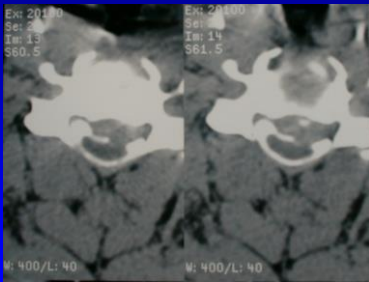
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## Advantages: Posterior vs. Anterior

- Maintain functional motion segment
  - Minimize adjacent level disc degeneration
- Excellent visualization of nerve root
- Avoid certain anterior complications
  - Recurrent laryngeal nerve injury, Horner's syndrome, esophageal injury, carotid injury, graft-related complications
- Avoid post-op neck immobilization

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## Disadvantages: Posterior vs. Anterior

- Post-op incisional neck pain
- Unable to address central disc/osteophyte
  - Pre-op MRI or CT-myelogram to exclude
- Need for neural retraction
  - Can minimize
- Positioning a bit more cumbersome
- Risk of instability?
- Risk of recurrence?

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## Instability After Posterior Cervical Discectomy/Foraminotomy

- Rare
- Chen BH et al. Comparison of biomechanical response to surgical procedures used for cervical radiculopathy: Posterior keyhole foraminotomy vs. anterior foraminotomy and discectomy vs. anterior discectomy with fusion. *J Spinal Disorders* 2001; 14(1): 17-20
  - “minor” increase in motion over normal spine

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## Recurrent HNP After Posterior Cervical Discectomy/Foraminotomy

- Rare
- 1/2032 patients in Collias' and Roberts' series (.05%)
  - Collias JC, Roberts MP. Posterior surgical approaches for cervical disk herniation and spondylotic myelopathy. In: Schmidek HH, ed. *Operative Neurosurgical Techniques: Indications, Methods, and Results*, Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 2000: 2016-2028.

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## Results

- Murphey F, Simmons J, Brunson B. Ruptured cervical discs: 1939 to 1972. Clin Neurosurg 1973; 20: 9-17.
  - Hemilaminectomy & discectomy, prone
  - 648 patients, 96% good/excellent results
  - 1% recurrence rate
- "The results of this operation are better than those of any other operation in neurosurgery"

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## Minimally Invasive Posterior Cervical Discectomy/Foraminotomy

- Extension of the "classical" open technique
- Operation is identical except for approach
- Minimally invasive approach via tubular retractor minimizes post-op pain
- Can be routinely performed on an outpatient basis

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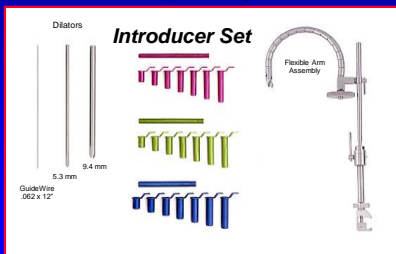
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## Minimally Invasive Microdiscectomy Surgical Technique




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## Minimally Invasive Posterior Cervical Discectomy

- Prone or sitting position
  - Reverse Trendelenberg if prone
- Fluoroscopic localization—use AP if shoulders block lateral view
- Incision 1.5 cm lateral to midline
- NO K-WIRE! Perforate fascia with sharp iris scissors, spread fascia bluntly with Metzenbaum's
- 14mm or 16mm diameter tube

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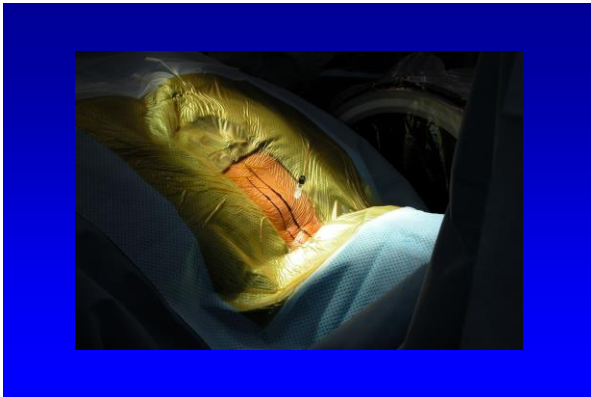
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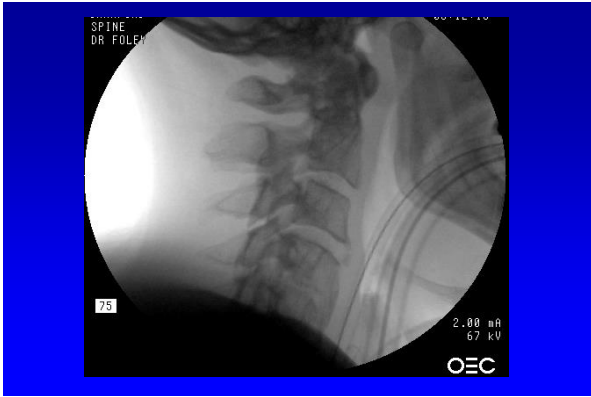
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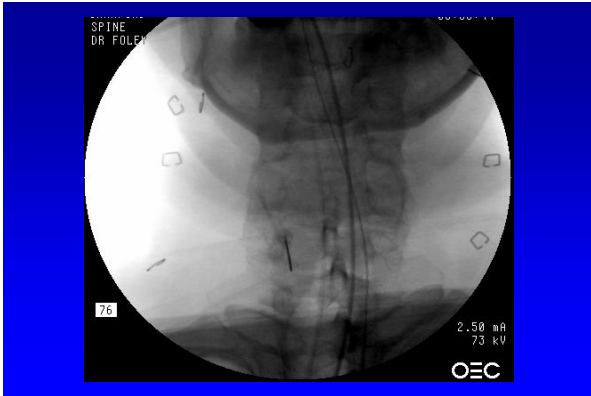
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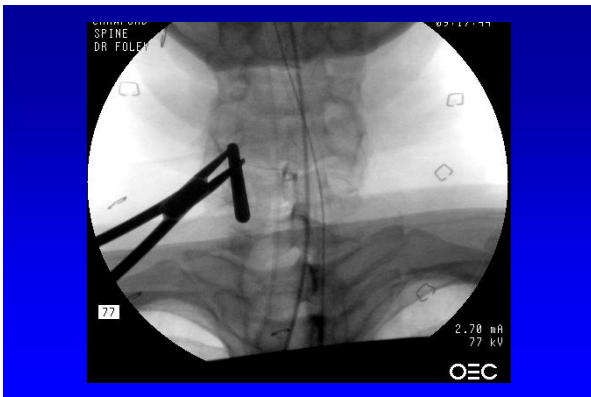
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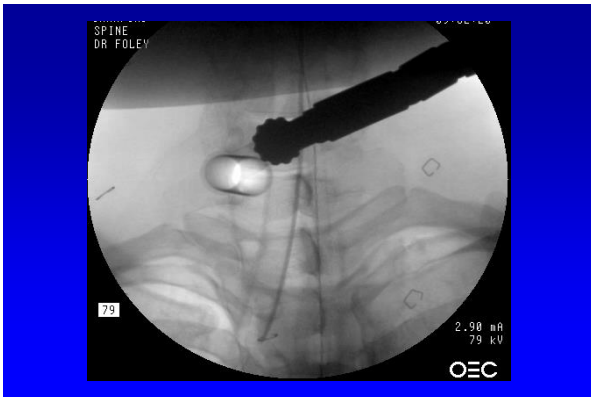
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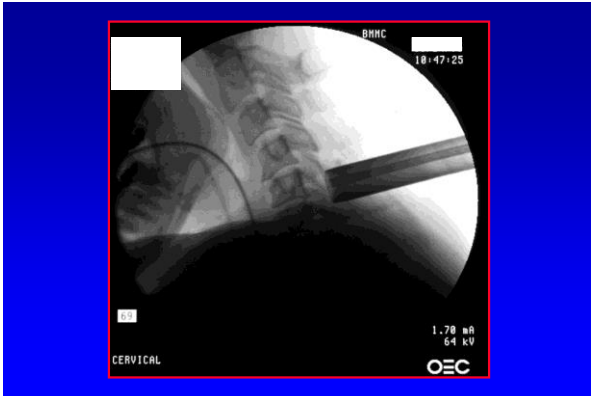
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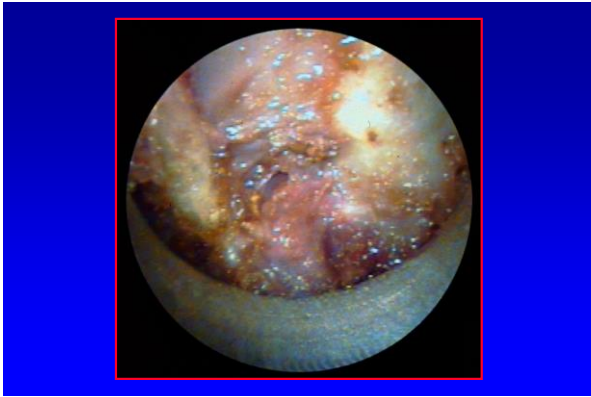
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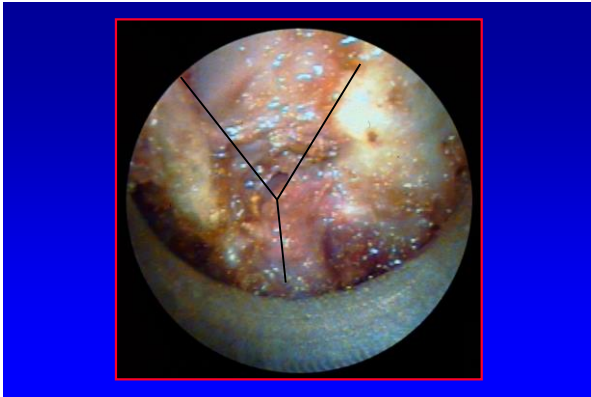
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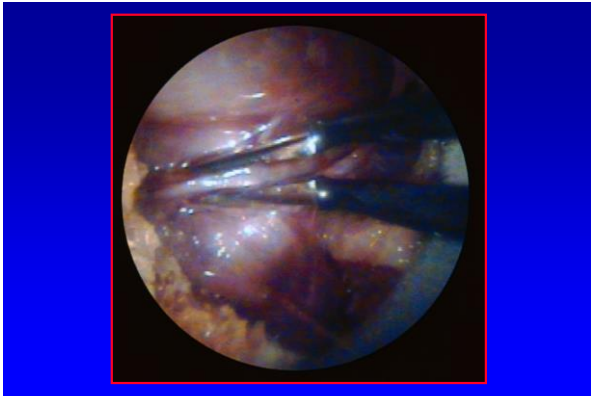
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### Tubular Retractor: Minimally Invasive Posterior Cervical Discectomy Results

- 100 consecutive patients with cervical radiculopathy
- Decompression via tubular retractor (MED)
- D/C 3 hours post-surgery
- Mean F/U 14.8 months
- 91 excellent, 6 good, 2 fair, 1 poor (re-op at 18 months)
- Return to work and/or full baseline activity 1 day to 4 weeks (mean 1.9 weeks) post-op

Adamson TE, J Neurosurg (Spine) 95:51-57, 2001

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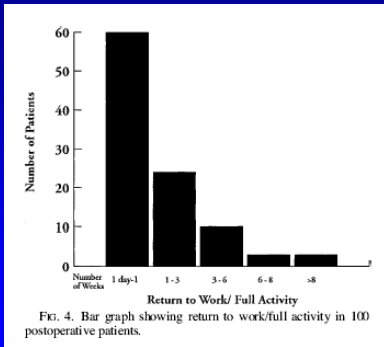


FIG. 4. Bar graph showing return to work/full activity in 100 postoperative patients.

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### Tubular Retractor: Minimally Invasive Posterior Cervical Discectomy Results

- 222 consecutive patients with cervical radiculopathy, mean F/U 26 months
- Decompression via tubular retractor, prone position
- Mean surgery time 63 minutes, mean EBL 71 cc
- 188 excellent, 22 good, 9 fair, 3 poor (all re-op with ACDF)
- LOS data for 191 patients - same day (167) or overnight (24)
- Complications: 1 infection, 2 dural tears (Duragen/Tisseel)

Hilton DL, Spine Journal 7:154-158, 2007

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# Conclusions

- Minimally invasive posterior cervical discectomy/foraminotomy using a tubular retractor is a safe and effective procedure
- Minimally invasive approach allows for routine outpatient surgery and quicker RTW/activity than the conventional open procedure

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