

Lumbar Laminotomy +/- Microdiscectomy

Understanding Your Risks

This document outlines the potential complications associated with **lumbar laminotomy with or without microdiscectomy**. This is a surgical procedure performed through an incision in the lower back in which a small portion of bone and/or ligament is removed to create access to the spinal canal. When indicated, herniated disc material is also removed to decompress the affected nerve root.

The usual purpose of surgery is to **relieve nerve compression, improve leg pain (sciatica), numbness, weakness, and functional limitations**, and improve quality of life in patients with conditions such as lumbar disc herniation, lateral recess stenosis, or nerve root compression. Relief of back pain may be variable and cannot be guaranteed.

Risks:

- **Persistent or recurrent leg or back pain**
- **Incomplete relief of symptoms**
- **Recurrent disc herniation**
- **Neurologic complications** (new or worsened numbness, weakness, nerve injury, or cauda equina injury)
- **Dural tear with cerebrospinal fluid leak**
- **Wound infection** (superficial or deep)
- **Bleeding or hematoma formation**
- **Epidural fibrosis or scar tissue formation**

- **Spinal instability, which may require future fusion surgery**
- **Adjacent segment degeneration**
- **All-cause reoperation**
- **Medical complications** (myocardial infarction, stroke, pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis)
- **Death** (extremely rare)

Risk Factors for Increased Complications:

- **Large or recurrent disc herniation**
- **Multilevel decompression**
- **Prior lumbar spine surgery**
- **Advanced age and higher ASA class**
- **Medical comorbidities** (diabetes, tobacco use, obesity)

Patient Acknowledgment: By signing below, the patient acknowledges understanding of the above risks associated with Lumbar Laminotomy +/- Microdiscectomy and all questions have been answered to the patient's satisfaction.

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Patient Name: _____ **DOB:** _____

