

Spine Surgery Risks

General Information

Surgery is part of your treatment plan. Your surgeon cannot guarantee you will feel relief after surgery.

Your Care After Surgery

Meet with social services before you leave the hospital if you need equipment (such as a hospital bed), home care or other services.

Members of your health care team can help arrange extra help.

Medicines

You should use over-the-counter pain medicine for pain relief. If this does not help, you may receive a prescription pain medicine (opioid). Members of your health care team will carefully check to help you avoid overuse or addiction.

Long-term use of prescription pain medicines may interfere with your body's natural ability to help control pain.

Over time, you need more and more pain medicine to receive the same pain relief. Use prescription pain medicine for a short period of time.

Risks

All surgery has risks. Some general risks are:

- problems with general anesthesia (being put to sleep)
- lung problems
- blood clots
- infection
- fluid that pools near the incision site
- allergy to anesthesia
- injury to a major blood vessel that can cause death.

Other risks include the following.

- Injury to a spinal nerve that could cause:
 - pain that will never go away
 - numbness or weakness in an arm or leg
 - loss of bowel or bladder control.
- Injury to the spinal cord that could cause long-term paralysis (not being able to move).

Your surgeon will talk with you about all of the risks with your surgery. The risks are serious but the chance you have any of these is low.

Where To Bring Your Paperwork

Midwest Spine & Brain Institute can help you fill out paperwork if it is related to disability, FMLA or other medical legal forms.

Midwest Spine & Brain Institute does charge a fee for such paperwork to be complete.

Mail your paperwork to Midwest Spine & Brain Institute, Att: Medical Legal Department, 1950 Northwestern Ave. Suite 102, Stillwater, MN 55082. Allow 1 to 2 weeks for the forms to be completed and mailed to you.

Do not bring any of this paperwork with you to the hospital.

Call 651-259-4545 if you have questions. Leave a message for the Medical Legal Department.

Whom To Call With Questions

- Call 651-241-7246 to make an appointment.
- Call 651-430-3800 to talk with your health care team if you have any questions about your surgery.