



Hi, I'm Dr. Kukurin and you are receiving this newsletter as a free gift from me. We spend a lot of time working on this publication. It's the same information patient's pay for in my office So I'm sure you will find it valuable and I hope you enjoy it. If you have a topic you'd like to suggest for future newsletters just give me a call.

623.547.4727~ Dr. K

Journal of Rapid Pain Relief

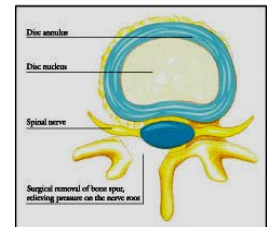
Effective Non-Surgical Treatments for Spinal Stenosis

What is Stenosis and what can I do to relieve the pain? Stenosis is a condition of the spine in which the normal space for the spinal cord and nerve roots becomes progressively diminished. Without adequate space for the nerves, they become irritated and painful. Another condition associated with spinal stenosis, is called intermittent claudication. Spinal stenosis itself is a common cause of back pain in people over 50 years old. Intermittent claudication (IC) is a unique set of symptoms which include achy, heaviness, pain, numbness or weakness that occur intermittently. Several classic signs and symptoms of IC are increased pain when walking and relief of pain when sitting or leaning forward. To understand spinal stenosis and IC we need to review the anatomy of the spine. Think of 23 doughnuts stacked one on top of the other. That is what the vertebrae in our spinal column looks like. The doughnut hole is where the spinal cord runs. Individual nerves branch off the spinal cord and exit between the stacked vertebrae. (see figure # 1) When we walk and move and sit and stand both the spinal cord itself and the individual nerve roots move in and out of the holes and in and out of the smaller canals between the vertebrae. When we are young there is plenty of room in the spinal column to comfortably allow the nerves to move without irritation. However as we age, arthritis and other debris begin reduce the size of the

various canals. This narrowing is called stenosis. As a result of this stenosis, the nerves can no longer move as they were designed to do without irritation. The irritation of the nerves that occurs with movement such as walking is called IC.

The orthopedic treatment for stenosis is to first inject steroids into the spine and then operate and remove part of the vertebrae in an attempt to make more room for the nerves. (Like taking a bite out of one of the doughnuts we used in our example.) The illustration below demonstrates a lumbar laminectomy. Commonly used to treat spinal stenosis.

Fig # 1 The nerves in the spine run through canals that are created by the stack of vertebrae.

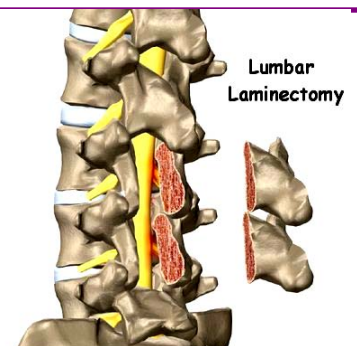


Unfortunately, neither steroid injections nor surgery offer much long term benefits to patients with stenosis, and each procedure carries with it some serious side effects. If the spine has curvature or is otherwise unstable, surgery becomes more complex and the complication rates rises. Re-operation is required in 1 of 10 patients.

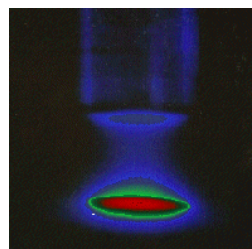
This issue: Alternative Medicine Info to relieve Spinal Stenosis



Leaning or bending forward while walking tends to reduce the irritation that causes back and leg pain in spinal Stenosis. Patients often will lean on a shopping cart or sit down and bend forward to relieve their back pain. In general, things that cause the body to bend forward are good, bending backward increases pain. (left)



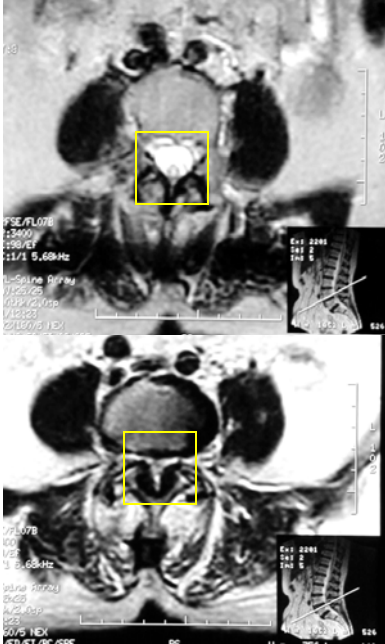
Ultrasound is a soothing sound wave that can reverse the nerve irritation that causes intermittent claudication in patients with spinal stenosis



Surgery to remove the portion of the vertebrae called the lamina is the preferred medical treatment for spinal stenosis. Fortunately most patients can avoid this surgery through treatments like TENs, specialized traction and acupuncture-like therapy. We have treated hundreds of cases of spinal stenosis with very good results.

~ Dr. Kukurin

Back Pain in Spinal Stenosis



Look at the image at the top left. This is a patient from our office. This top image (outlined in the square) shows a normal, non-stenotic level. The white area within the box is the spinal cord and other nerves. Now look at the image on the bottom left. This is the same patient as in the top image. Notice the area within the square and compare it with the top image. See how the nerves are smashed into a small area by spinal stenosis? The nerves are compressed into a small “T” shaped area. Our treatment was able to help this patient to avoid surgery. In fact less than 9% of 1000 patients treated with specialized chiropractic methods required surgery. Most patients reached maximum improvement within six weeks and 12 treatments. 8 The addition of electrical nerve stimulation can improve function in

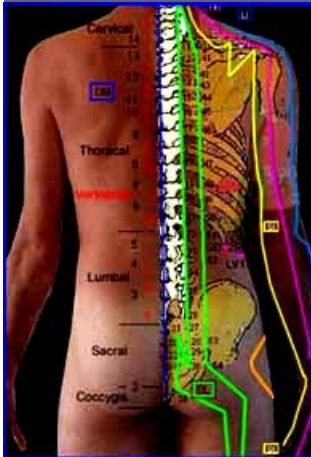
Gently relieves pressure by stretching and flexing



Specialized forms of traction used in our office can often decompress the nerves without the need for surgery. (ref 7)

patients suffering from claudication. 9-10 Specialized traction was shown to decrease leg pain in more than 78% of patients with stenosis.

Home remedies for stenosis continued from page one.



The classical meridians or channels of ancient acupuncture follow the course of the major nerves of modern neurology. Historically acupuncture was performed to help move “energy” known as “Chi” along the acupuncture meridians. Modern Western acupuncture is based on restoring normal nerve chemistry and function. Aside from the obvious differences in terminology, the ancient system of acupuncture and modern system of neurologically based acupuncture are remarkably similar. In older patients who may be on blood thinners or otherwise debilitated, surface electrical stimulation at the acupuncture point takes the place of needles. This reduces the chance of adverse events dramatically. Call 623.547.4727



Acupuncture either with needles or with electrical stimulation can be very effective in relieving the leg pain associated with spinal stenosis (above)

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