

Outcomes 2010

When considering spine surgery, it is important to have knowledge of a surgeon's successes and complications. One option is to check with web-based physician rating companies, but in general they do not provide data. They simply offer a small sample of opinions. A better option is to have your surgeon's outcomes rates determined by a third party survey.

At my practice, Denver Spine Surgeons, we use an independent company to determine how our patients are doing after treatment. We look at pain control, return to work and recreational activities. For our surgical patients, Rose Spine Institute, the medical center where we operate, follows the data regarding infections, re-admissions, complications, and re-operations immediately after the first surgery. They also look at patients with medical problems and conduct periodic patient satisfaction surveys to see how satisfied patients are with the staff and physicians.

Here is a look at my 2010 outcomes data for surgeries on the cervical spine (neck), lumbar spine (low back), and deformity (scoliosis, kyphosis), including:

Microdiscectomy
Laminectomy
Laminoplasty (cervical spine)
Fusion
Scoliosis, Kyphosis, Spondylolisthesis
Artificial Disc Replacement
Spinal Cord Stimulation
Revision Surgery for non-union, spinal stenosis, next level disease
Instrumentation of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine
Removal of Spinal Instrumentation
Anterior (front) low back Fusion or Disc Placement

Infection rate: 2.1% for all types of spinal surgeries listed above (Range: 1.4 – 4.2%)
Re-admission within 30 days of first surgery: 2.1%
Ongoing Neurologic weakness: 1.0%
Bleeding after surgery (hematoma) requiring repeat surgery: 1.0%
Dural Tear requiring repeat surgery: 1.0% (Range 0.8 – 7.2%)
Dural Tear in surgery without consequences: 3.1% (Range 0.8 – 7.2%)
Recurrent Disc Herniation: 7.7% (Range 2 – 18%)
Eye complications: none (Range less than 0.2%)
Wrong level Surgery: none
Vocal Cord Paralysis: none (Range less than or equal to 5%)

All of the above are within or better than the standard of care for spinal surgery.