

Pain Diagnostics and
Interventional Care

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Pain Diagnostics
& Interventional Care

Persistent Pain After Back Surgery



Dr. Provenzano
presenting at the 2022
Annual North
American
Neuromodulation
Society (NANS)
Conference.

Mission Statement

To professionally and passionately provide evidence-based medical care for patients with various pain states and to advance the science of pain medicine through research and education.

Vision Statement

To be recognized and celebrated as the gold standard for pain medicine in the greater Pittsburgh region.

Background

Failed Back Surgery Syndrome (FBSS), Post-Laminectomy Syndrome (PLS), and Persistent Spinal Pain Syndrome (PSPS) all refer to the same condition which is persistent pain after back surgery. For many patients, persistent pain after back surgery, the term FBSS as a diagnostic label is potentially problematic and misleading. The surgery may have gone as planned and primary goals of the surgery

successfully completed such as fusion and decompression. Several factors affect the outcome of spine surgery. A multitude of mechanisms/reasons may exist for persistent pain after back surgery including biomechanical changes, persistent irritation of the nervous system, bony and myofascial structures and psychosocial factors including persistent depression and anxiety.

Symptoms

The symptoms associated with persistent pain after back surgery may be the same pain the patient was feeling before surgery, or a new set of aches and pain. A constant dull ache in region where surgery occurred, pain shooting down the legs, and sharp stabbing pains in the low back are often associated with PSPS.



Contact us!



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Reference

Christelis, N., Simpson, B., Russo, M., Stanton-Hicks, M., Barolat, G., Thomson, S., Schug, S., Baron, R., Buchser, E., Carr, D. B., Deer, T. R., Dones, I., Eldabe, S., Gallagher, R., Huygen, F., Kloth, D., Levy, R., North, R., Perruchoud, C., ... Loeser, J. (2021). Persistent spinal pain syndrome: A proposal for failed back surgery syndrome and ICD-11. *Pain Medicine*, 22(4), 807–818. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pm/pnab015>

Treatment

For most conditions, the best course of treatment is to go after the cause of the problem. However, often with persistent pain after back surgery, the treatment options often include symptom management.

Treatment options for people with persistent pain after back surgery include, physical therapy/chiropractic care, neuropathic pain medications, nonopioid pain medications, epidural steroid injections,

radiofrequency ablation, and spinal cord stimulation. The most effective treatment plan is multifaceted often including physical therapy (PT), medications, and interventional procedures.

At Pain Diagnostics and Interventional Care, our goal is to relieve a patient's pain without the need for repeat surgeries. We will work with you to create a comprehensive and personalized treatment plan.

PT/Chiropractic Care

Patients work with a physical therapist or chiropractor to strengthen the surrounding muscles while improving mobility and muscle imbalances.



Medications

Multiple nonopioid medications are available to treat bone, muscle, and nerve pain. In limited cases, opioid pain medications may be utilized in structured programs.



Steroid Injections

Epidural steroid injections help to reduce the inflammation of spinal structures including nerve roots which often cause the pain associated with sciatica. Steroid joint injections including sacroiliac joint injections are also helpful in select patients.



Spinal Cord Stimulation

Spinal Cord Stimulation (SCS) is FDA approved for persistent pain after back surgery. SCS is effective at reducing people's pain and letting people regain their quality of life and function.



Interested in Clinical Research?

Pain Diagnostics and Interventional Care's Clinical Research Department is driven to further the science of Pain Medicine to bring our patients the most up to date and effective treatment options. We are currently enrolling patients for studies regarding low back pain. If you are interested in learning more, let us know!