

Hours of Operation

Monday–Thursday,
8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Friday,
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Laminectomy

What is a laminectomy?

A laminectomy is surgery that removes a small amount of bone from the spine to take pressure off nerves in the lower back.

How will it help me?

The surgery almost always reduces pain and numbness allowing leg strength to improve.

How is it performed?

After anesthesia is administered and you are asleep, an incision is made near the center of the lower back. The length of the incision will depend on how many vertebrae are involved. The lamina is removed from the affected vertebrae and the opening that is created takes pressure off the nerve. Once the nerve is free of pressure, the incision is closed with stitches or staples. The procedure usually takes one to three hours.

Will it be painful?

After the procedure you will be in the recovery area where nurses assess your post-surgical pain. You may have a catheter in your bladder. There may also be a drain in the low back, and you may be wearing compression boots to reduce the risk of blood clots.

What are the risks and side effects?

As with any surgery, the risks include nerve damage, spinal fluid leakage, blood clots or infection.