

# Health Bulletin



## Hope For Failed Back Surgery

(NAPSA)—When it comes to saving your spine, sometimes surgery just doesn't cut it. Fortunately, doctors know of ways to help.

### The Problem

Open spine surgery and spinal fusion surgery are the only categories of surgery that actually have a clinical term for failure—Failed Back Surgery Syndrome (FBSS). It describes the condition of patients who do not experience relief of pain from these types of surgeries.

### The Cause

The leading cause is foraminal stenosis (a decrease in the overall size of the bony window through which the spinal nerves pass) but painful disks are also common.

### Old Treatments

Generally, treatment starts with conservative measures, such as rehabilitation and pain management, before further surgery is considered. Other conservative measures may include exercise, manual therapy, spinal cord stimulators and an implanted pump to deliver pain medication. Unfortunately, repeated open and fusion surgeries are usually not successful at relieving FBSS pain.

### New Treatments

However, there now exist measures to reduce and alleviate the pain resulting from symptomatic FBSS. Recent developments have allowed FBSS patients to once again live pain-free. These advances over traditional open and fusion spine surgeries allow for greater precision, faster healing and less damage to healthy tissue. Advanced spine surgeries today can employ the smallest incision possible to correct problems with patented instrumentation and methods.

The patient, under local anesthesia, is alert and able to commu-



**Doctors say advances over traditional open and fusion spine surgeries mean greater precision, faster healing and less damage to healthy tissue.**

nicate with the surgeon throughout the procedure. The result can be far less trauma to muscles and tissues, minimal blood loss and faster recovery. Patients who have had "open" laminectomy or fusion surgeries that did not relieve their pain can now try these gentle, carefully controlled outpatient procedures, which are performed sequentially. Called The Bonati Procedures, they were developed by and are performed only at The Bonati Institute by surgical teams that have done more than 20,000 such procedures.

Back and leg pain can be a complex issue that may possibly require a team of health professionals to diagnose and treat. Before considering any back surgery, get a second opinion from a qualified specialist. It is important to choose your spine team wisely.

### Learn More

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