

Patient Guide to **Tumors of the Spine**



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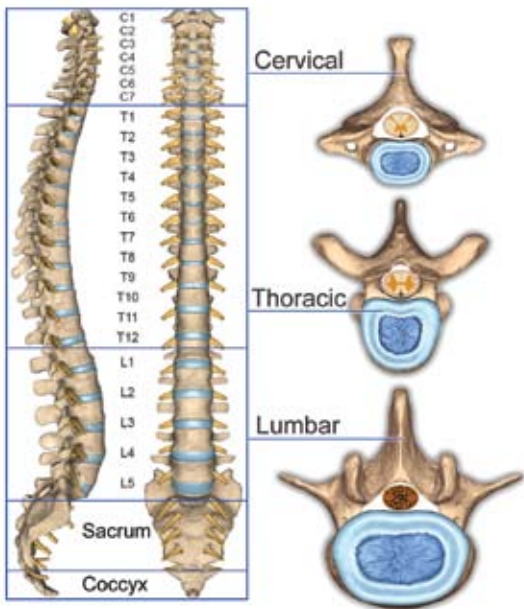
Tumors of the Spine



Description:

Tumors of the spine are usually metastatic, meaning they originate from a primary tumor elsewhere in the body and spread to the spine via the lymph nodes or bloodstream. Tumors can grow into the spinal cord causing neurological problems. In addition, tumors may destroy vertebral bodies causing collapse and thus, local or radiating pain.

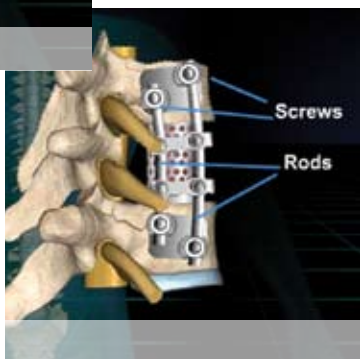
Spine Anatomy:

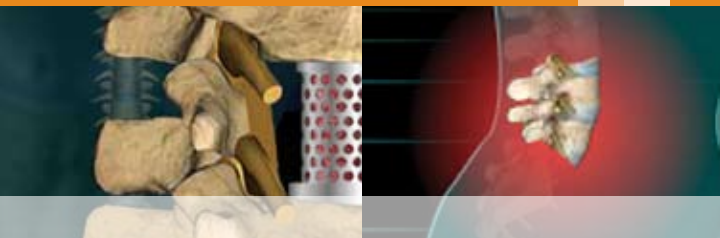




Symptoms:

- Back pain caused by destroyed bone
- Radiating leg pain or weakness
- Neurological problems

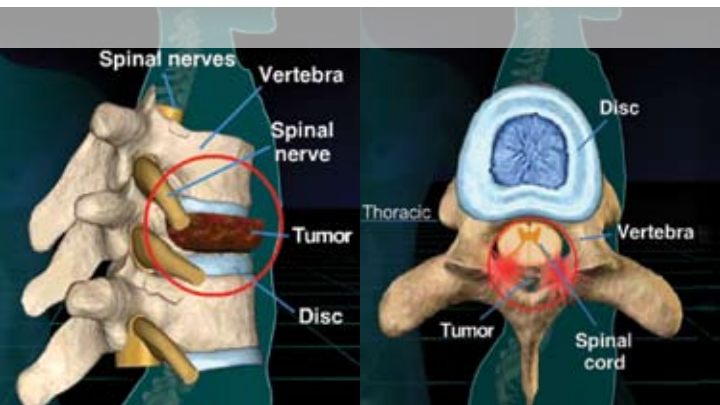
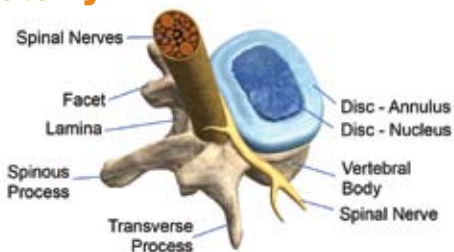




Causes:

- Growth of a primary tumor in a vertebral body
- Spread of distant primary organ tumors to the spine
- Growth of tumors into spinal canal
- Collapse of vertebral bodies causing nerve pressure

Disc Anatomy:





Possible Treatment Options

Non Operative Treatment

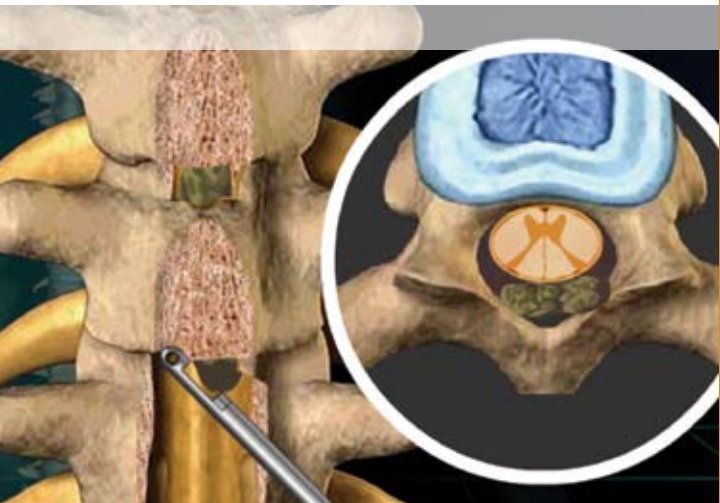
Chemotherapy and radiation are sometimes needed. Surgery can be considered for those who do not improve.

Anterior Vertebral Body Replacement

Surgical instruments are used to remove tumor and affected vertebrae. Once the tumor is removed, a metal implant is inserted to provide stability and replace the void caused by the removed tumor.

Laminectomy and Instrumentation

Performed when a tumor has spread to the spine and is pushing on the spinal cord. The laminectomy removes a portion of the bone pushing on the nerves or spinal cord causing pain. Instrumentation is often used to provide additional stability.





At Stryker, we bring patients and physicians products that help make spinal surgery and recovery simpler, faster, and more effective. We are dedicated to the principle of “responsible science,” so you can be sure that our products and procedures are fully tested and clinically proven to help people lead healthier, more active lives.

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Patient education is important prior to any surgery. A patient who is well informed of their spinal surgery procedure, and has an understanding of what to expect, is more likely to be satisfied with their clinical outcome. To assist the patient in their patient education, Stryker has provided this educational brochure as a companion to the patient education website: <http://www.understandspinesurgery.com>. This brochure was created to inform on a very basic level and any instrumentation shown is meant to be illustrative of spinal instrumentation in a generic sense and does not endorse any particular system over another.

The information presented in this brochure is for educational purposes only. Stryker is not dispensing medical advice. Please speak to your doctor to decide if spinal surgery is right for you. Only your doctor can make the medical judgment regarding which products and treatments are right for your own individual condition.

As with any surgery, spinal procedures carry certain risks. Your surgeon will explain all the possible complications of the surgery, as well as side effects. Each spinal surgery patient will experience a different post-operative activity level, depending upon their own individual clinical factors. Your doctor will help counsel you about how to best maintain your activities in order to recover properly from your surgery. Such activities include not engaging in high-impact activities that could de-stabilize any instrumentation that may have been implanted.

7/07

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