

Dekompressor Discectomy

OVERVIEW

This minimally-invasive procedure uses a small needle and an advanced probe device to reduce a herniated disc, quickly relieving pain in most patients. The procedure may be done using a gentle relaxing medicine and local anesthetic on an outpatient basis.

STEP 1

After some anesthetic is injected to numb the area, a thin needle called a cannula is inserted through the back and into the herniated disc. The surgeon uses x-ray images to guide the placement of the cannula.

STEP 2

The small probe is carefully inserted through the cannula and into the disc. When the probe is turned on, its rotating tip removes small portions of the disc nucleus. Because only enough of the disc is removed to reduce pressure inside the disc, the spine remains stable.

STEP 3

The empty space left behind draws the disc wall herniation back in place.

END OF PROCEDURE

The probe and needle are removed, and the insertion area in the skin is covered with a small bandage. Because no muscles or bone are cut during the procedure, recovery is fast and scarring is minimized. The patient may need a day of bed rest after the procedure, as well as physical therapy. Most may return to normal activity within one to six weeks.

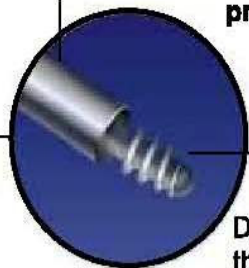
HERNIATED DISC BEFORE PROCEDURE

Disc hernia pinches spinal cord or nerve root, causing pain



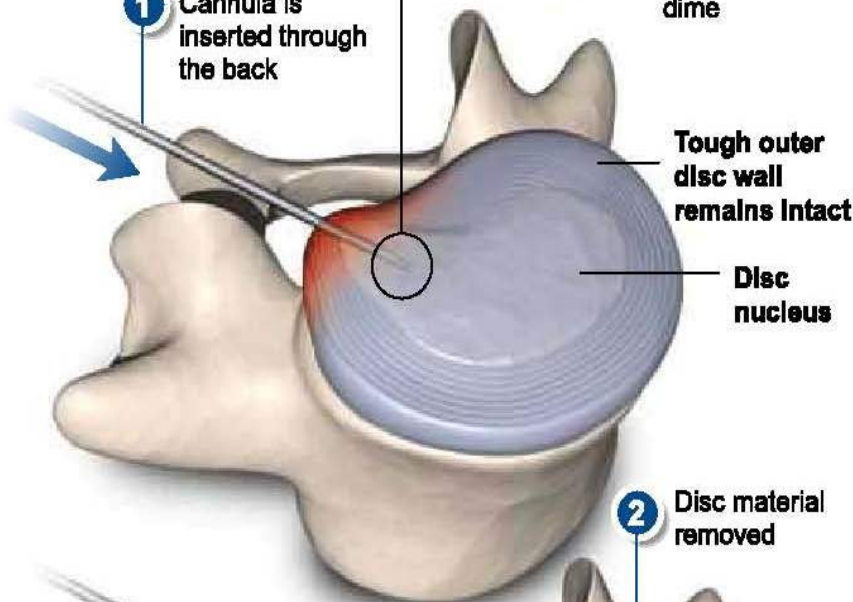
Cannula

Rotating probe tip



Device is as thin as a dime

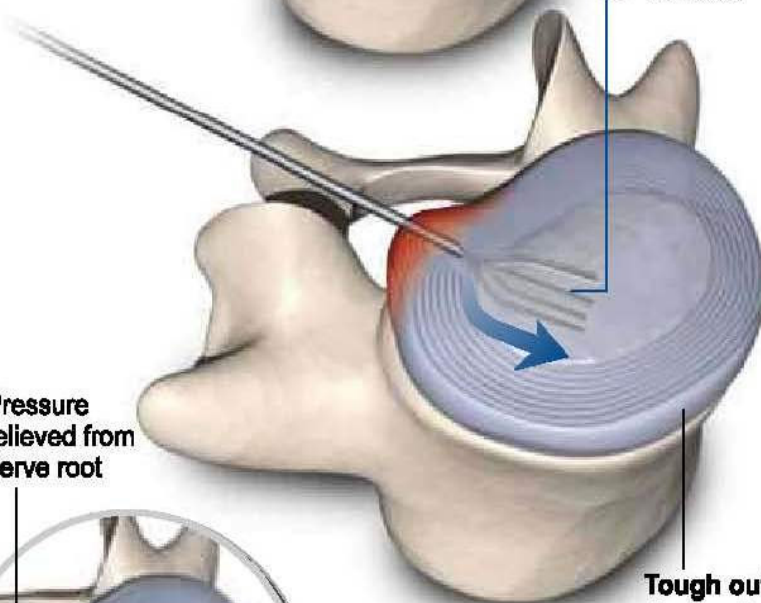
1 Cannula is inserted through the back



Tough outer disc wall remains intact

Disc nucleus

2 Disc material removed



Pressure relieved from nerve root

Tough outer disc wall remains intact

3 Empty space draws the disc wall herniation back in place



HERNIATED DISC AFTER PROCEDURE