

I am a 64 year old man who suffered from back problems for several years. My problems mostly were the results of arthritis in my spine. The condition just kept getting worse as the years progressed.

My regular physician sent me to a neurologist. He had MRI's done of my spine, and he told me that I would probably need several fusions of vertebrae in my spine. He said it could be as many as five fusions, but he couldn't be sure until I had surgery. I didn't like this option at all, and told him so.

He said that we could try medication to see if that would help, but that it was only postponing the inevitable. I opted for the medication to put off surgery as long as possible. I took nerve pain medicine, muscle relaxers, and anti-inflammatory pills, but they only masked the pain. I still had the numbness going down my left leg and couldn't feel anything at the bottom of my left foot. My left knee often felt as if it was going to give out at any moment.

I went to the pain management folks and had three epidurals in one year. The first one helped for about three months, the second lasted maybe two months, and the last one only helped for maybe three weeks. Then they tried nerve root block injections. The first lasted a couple of months, and the second one only lasted maybe three of four weeks. I was told again that surgery was by next option.

I went to another neurologist who had a series of test performed. Another MRI, discogram, some sort of electro-something test (EMG) to check for nerve damage down my left leg. After all the tests results went to the doctor, His comment was "There are so many things wrong at so many levels; I'm not sure what to do". Not exactly a confidence builder.

By this time I had gotten to the point that I could not stay on my feet for any length of time. My left leg felt as if it was going to buckle and give way after walking only a few yards. I was pretty miserable.

A friend told me of the success of her surgery performed by Dr. Lorio in Bristol. I got several more positive references, and decided to give Neuro-Spine Solutions a visit. I had my primary care physician refer my records to Dr. Lorio with a request for an appointment.

After Dr. Lorio had examined the tests that I had already had done, and I went through some additional test that he wanted, he developed a surgery plan that he thought would help me. He carefully explained to me what his plans were. It was a pretty involved process, and of course I was more than a little nervous. The confidence of Dr. Lorio about the expected results and the clarity of his plan convinced me to have the surgery.

I underwent the surgery on August 3, 2011. It was a pretty extensive operation, but I can say that by the time I got all the surgical staples out, I could already tell an improvement in my back. The pain was greatly reduced. I carefully followed the post operative instructions that I was given. I had to wear a pretty serious back brace for 4 months, but within a month, I was no longer taking any pain medication, nerve medication, or anti-inflammatory pills. I wasn't even taking anything over-the-counter medications like Tylenol©.

It's been just over six months since surgery, and I am amazed at the difference. I am back going the gym several times a week. I can walk and stand for extended periods without discomfort. I can even work around the house and in the garden.

I am very grateful to God for the miracle, and grateful to Dr. Lorio for his skillful planning and the execution of those plans. I know its old cliché, but I feel like a new man. I could serve as the poster child for a successful back surgery.