



Health

(/health)

Myelopathy

! WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Myelopathy is a disorder that results from severe compression of the spinal cord.

The only way to treat the compression of the spinal cord is through decompression surgery.

Causes of myelopathy include [spinal stenosis](#)

(http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/healthlibrary/conditions/adult/nervous_system_disorders/neurological_disorders_22,SpinalStenosis/ spinal trauma and spinal infections, as well as autoimmune, oncological, neurological and congenital disorders.

Myelopathy can be cervical and thoracic; cervical myelopathy is the most prevalent.

Myelopathy is typically a gradual degenerative process affecting older adults.

What is myelopathy?

Myelopathy is an injury to the spinal cord due to severe compression that may result from trauma, congenital stenosis, degenerative disease or disc herniation. The spinal cord is a group of nerves housed inside the spine that runs almost its entire length. When any portion of the spinal cord becomes compressed or constricted, the resulting symptoms are known as myelopathy.

Myelopathy Versus Myopathy

Myopathy is a muscular disorder and should not be confused with myelopathy, which has to do with nerve damage inside the spinal cord.

Myelopathy Versus Radiculopathy

Myelopathy may sometimes be accompanied by [radiculopathy](#).

(http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/healthlibrary/conditions/adult/nervous_system_disorders/acute_radiculopathies_134,11/).

Radiculopathy is the term used to describe pinching of the nerve roots as they exit the spinal cord or cross the intervertebral disc, rather than the compression of the cord itself (myelopathy).

Types of Myelopathy

Myelopathy can occur in any area of the spine and has a different name depending on where in the spine it appears.

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