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[Laser Spine Institute](#)

Laser Spine Institute's minimally invasive procedures are the safe and effective alternative to open neck or back surgery.

Our revolutionary endoscopic surgical techniques are proven to help patients return to their normal, active lifestyles. Every month, more people come to Laser Spine Institute for help in relieving their neck and back pain than to any other spine surgery center in the world.

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Spine Conditions

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Endoscopic Spine Procedures



There are many spinal conditions that are treated at the Laser Spine Institute. All procedures are uniquely designed and developed to provide patients with the best possible medical care. [More on endoscopic spine procedures](#)

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Testimonials



Laser Spine Institute has amazing care with miraculous results. I am pain free at last and looking forward to once again living a full life.

[READ PATIENT TESTIMONIALS](#)

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Free Seminars



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What is minimally invasive spine surgery and can this procedure help you? You can get these answers by attending a Free Educational Seminar.

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Laser Spine Institute Doctors



The physicians at Laser Spine Institute care about you and your condition. [More about our doctors and medical staff](#)

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Contact Us

Contact Us

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Facet Disease VIEWED 06/15/2012

Description of Facet Disease

The **Facet** joints are the joint structures that connect the vertebrae to one another. The facet joint is like any other joint in your body - they have cartilage that line the joint, (this allows the bone to glide smoothly over one another) and a capsule surrounding the joint. The function of the facet joint is to provide support, stability, and mobility to the vertebrae (spine). Facet Disease occurs when there is degeneration of the facet joint.

There are two facet joints between each vertebrae. They are located on each side of the vertebrae. Facet disease can occur at any level of the spine, but are most common in the lumbar region..

There are a number of terms that are used to diagnose facet problems:

- Facet Arthritis
- [Facet Joint Syndrome](#)
- Facet Disease
- Facet Hypertrophy
- Degenerative Facet Joints

In general, all of the terms mean pretty much the same thing - arthritis or degeneration of the facet joint.



[Click here to view an animation about Facet Disease.](#)

Causes of Facet Disease

Facet Disease is caused by the cartilage in the joints being worn down as a result of wear and tear, aging, injury or misuse. This type of injury to the spine can be attributed to arthritis

of the spine, work, over-use or an accident. Another cause of Facet Disease is spondylolisthesis, which is when one vertebra slips forward in relation to an adjacent vertebra, usually in the lumbar spine.

Symptoms of Facet Disease

Symptoms related to facet joint problems are usually localized to the area of the facet joint. This can occur in the cervical (neck), thoracic (mid-back) and lumbar (lower back).

When the facets are affected in the lumbar region, a person can experience lower back pain that can go to the buttocks and upper thigh area. If the area affected is cervical, then pain can occur in the back of the neck and radiate to the top of the shoulders, and can radiate around the neck.

[Click Here to see how you can get your life back in 5 days](#)

Treatment of Facet Disease

Since there are a lot of causes of back and neck pain, it is important that when evaluating and treating a patient that the correct diagnosis is made. Pain related to facet disease can be easily diagnosed. This is accomplished by either a thorough physical exam or a diagnostic facet injection, a numbing medication injected into the facet joint. If your pain is caused from the facet joint, then the pain should resolve immediately. If you still have pain after the injection, then your pain may be caused by something else such as [Spinal Stenosis](#) or a [herniated/bulging disc](#), which may require a different procedure to correct.

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If the injection relieves the pain, then the next step would be to perform a [Laser Facet Thermal Ablation](#). This procedure is performed through a small tube - 5mm (about the size of a straw.) The laser, fiber optics and irrigation are all placed in the tube and surgery is performed on the facet joint. The surgeon will use the laser to debride (clean the joint) and deaden the nerve that innervates the joint. This is very similar to a root canal that the dentist will perform on your tooth. This procedure takes about 40 minutes and will resolve the pain associated with the facet joint.

Please note: Laser Spine Institute currently does not perform endoscopic procedures on the thoracic spine.

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Facet Disease Resources

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- [What Should I Do If I Think I Have Facet Disease?](#)

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CONTACT US

Contact us today to have your questions answered.

Phone

Have you been in pain for 6 months or more?

Yes No

Have you seen an orthopedic or neurosurgeon who has recommended that you have surgery to correct your condition?

Yes No

Have you had an MRI or CT scan in the last 5 years?

Yes No

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[versión en español](#)



Laser Spine Institute makes the Inc. 500/5000 list for 2010!

In 2010, *Inc.* Magazine honored Laser Spine Institute with inclusion in its 500/5000 list of the fastest-growing, private companies as determined by number of employees and revenue growth over the last three years. Laser Spine Institute ranked No. 1,140 overall and No. 82 in the healthcare category.

ABOUT TRUST ONLINE



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