

Micro Endoscopic Posterior Cervical Discectomy

This surgery removes bone and/or portions of a herniated or diseased disc to relieve neck and radiating arm pain caused by parts of the disc pressing on nerve roots.

STEP 1

Through a small incision, a guide wire is inserted to locate the affected disc level. The surgeon uses a special type of x-ray machine called a fluoroscope to ensure that the route to the herniated disc is made in the correct location.

STEP 2

A series of dilating tubes is passed over the guide wire to push apart the tissue down to the vertebrae. The guide wire then is removed.

STEP 3

The tubular retractor, through which the surgery will be performed, slides over the dilating tubes. It is positioned on the bone surface. All the dilating tubes are then removed.

STEP 4

A surgical light and small camera or microscope are placed through the tube to view the disc level. Surgical instruments are used to clear away bone and soft tissue in order to access the spinal canal.

STEP 5

A drill may be used to clear away some bone, exposing the pinched nerve root and herniated disc below.

STEP 6

The herniated portion of the disc is removed and the area is cleared, allowing room for the nerve to move back to its normal position.

END OF PROCEDURE

The tubular retractor is removed, allowing the body tissue to close in and around the surgery area. A small bandage is used to close the surface wound.

