



Cervical Laminoplasty

For patients with painfully restricted spinal canals in their necks, this procedure immediately relieves pressure by creating more space for the spinal cord and roots. The technique is often referred to as an “open door laminoplasty,” because the back of the vertebrae is made to swing open like a door.

STEP 1

An incision is made on the back of the neck.

STEP 2

A groove is cut down one side of the cervical vertebrae, creating a hinge.

STEP 3

The other side of the vertebrae is cut all the way through.

STEP 4

The tips of the spinous processes are removed.

STEP 5

The back of each vertebrae is opened, taking pressure off of the spinal cord and nerve roots.

STEP 6

The spinous processes, removed earlier, are shaped into small wedges and placed in the opened space.

STEP 7

The back of the vertebrae swings shut, and the wedges stop the door from closing all the way. The spinal cord and nerve roots rest comfortably behind the door.