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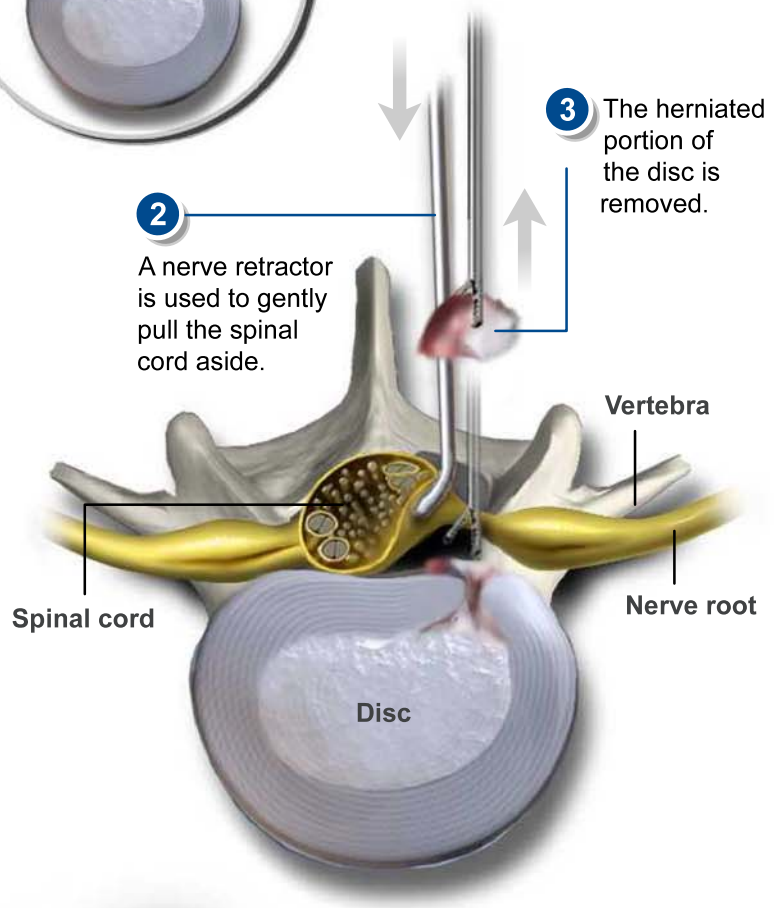
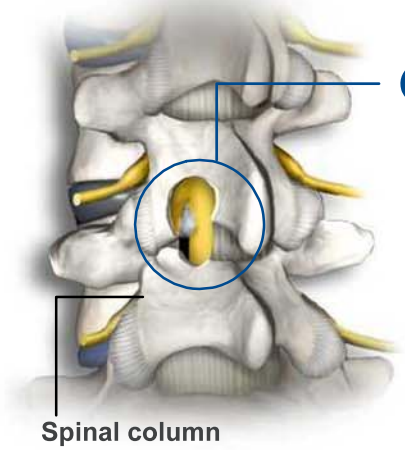
# Disc Microsurgery

**DISC BEFORE PROCEDURE**
**Damaged disc pinches nerver root, causing pain.**




**DISC AFTER PROCEDURE**
**Repaired disc** relieves pain.


The most common and effective microsurgical technique for the removal of a disc herniation is called a microdiscectomy. The procedure is up to 95% to 98% effective in eliminating leg pain (sciatica) caused by nerve root compression from a disc herniation. This procedure is performed through a small incision on the back.

## STEP 1

Through a small incision directly over the herniated disc, the surgeon creates a small window in the lamina (the bone covering the spinal canal). Through this opening, the pinched nerve root and the herniated disc can be seen.

## STEP 2

A nerve retractor is used to gently move the spinal cord away from the herniated disc.

## STEP 3

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. All healthy disc material is left in place.

## END OF PROCEDURE

The success of the surgery depends on complete removal of all material pressing on the nerve root. This procedure is minimally invasive because only the damaged portion of the disc is removed, leaving any healthy disc material to perform its function as a cushion between the vertebrae.