

# Micro Endoscopic Discectomy

This minimally invasive procedure, designed to relieve pain caused by herniated discs pressing on nerve roots, is performed through a tubular device. The surgery is performed under local or epidural anesthesia, allowing the patient to leave the hospital the same day.

## 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 correct.

## STEP 2

A series of dilating tubes is passed over the guide wire, pushing apart tissue down to the vertebrae. The guide wire 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 are placed through the tube to view the disc level on a video monitor. 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.

