

Percutaneous means “through the skin” or using a very small incision.

Discectomy is the surgical removal of disc material that may be pressing on a nerve root or the spinal cord.

Percutaneous discectomy is different from conventional open discectomy or microdiscectomy. Since there is virtually no actual cutting of the skin there will be no stitches or large scars resulting from this procedure.

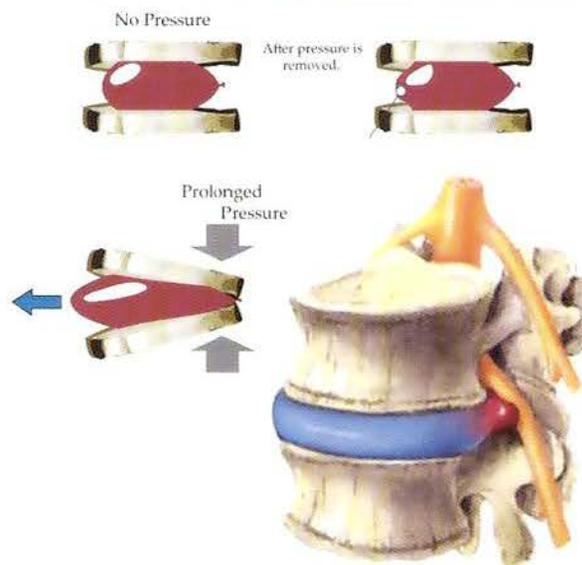
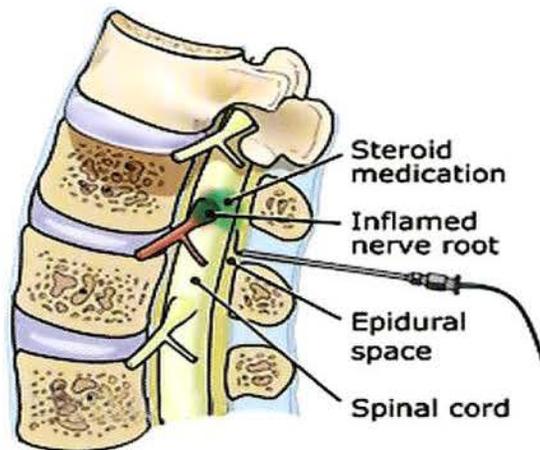
The procedure involves inserting a tiny needle between the vertebrae and into the middle of the disc. X-ray monitoring is used during surgery to guide the movement of the surgical instruments.

The surgeon can remove disc tissue by extracting or sucking out the center of the disc, or by using lasers to burn or evaporate the disc. Removal of the disc material can resolve the anatomical abnormality.

The procedure is done in a surgery center or in our office using either local or general anesthesia.

Before surgery, the doctor will confirm that a disc is causing the symptoms by using an imaging study, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT Scan), myelography or discography.

When pain and nerve damage have not improved after 4 or more weeks of nonsurgical treatment and symptoms are severe and disabling this procedure can be an option.



Frequently Asked Questions:

What type of pain can be treated?

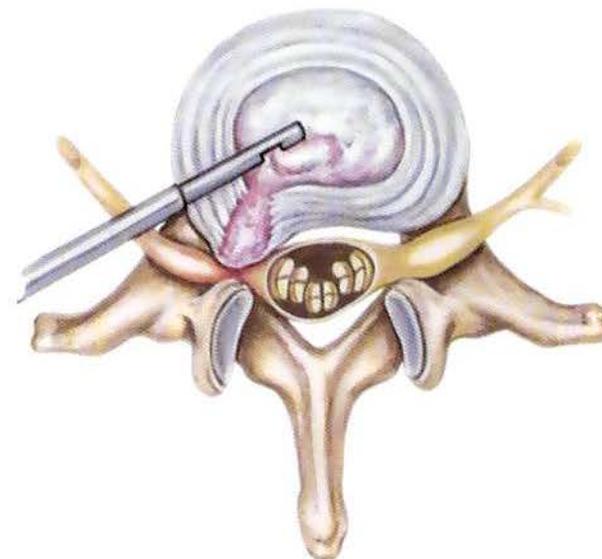
Low back, neck pain and radicular pain due to contained disc herniations or disc bulges

How does the procedure work?

The discectomy probe removes the disc material which may relieve painful pressure of the disc on the surrounding nerves.

Will the procedure hurt?

There should be minimal pain experienced with this procedure. This advancement in technology only requires a small needle to be placed through the skin, similar to a single injection.



How long does the procedure take?

The total procedure time is generally 30-45 minutes