

Kansas Orthopaedic Center, P.A.

Specific Surgical Risks

Patient Name	Date	MR#
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Every surgical procedure performed carries with it certain risk. During our interview at the point of scheduling the surgical procedure we discussed those risks inherent to the surgery. The following is a list of those major risks that we discussed, which you are taking upon yourself with surgery. This is not an exhaustive list of possible complications, but covers the most likely complications, even though some of them are very rare.

Global risks: these risks are the same regardless of surgical procedure. These risks include:

- Post-operative infection
- Significant bleeding
- Continued neck or back pain
- Major cardiac event, stroke or even death

Anterior cervical surgeries: discectomy and corpectomy

- The most common complaint is sore throat, difficulty swallowing or pain with swallowing.
- In rare cases post-operative swelling or bleeding in the surgical site can compress the airway and make breathing difficult. This may require the reinsertion of a surgical breathing tube.
- Injury to a nerve, which may manifest as weakness or numbness in part of your arm, hoarseness of the voice, or drooping of the eyelids.
- Injury to the spinal cord injury resulting in partial or complete paralysis.
- Failure of the bones to heal together, which may manifest as hardware breakage or screws backing out, which may require revision surgery.
- Degeneration of levels above or below the location of the surgery, which may require revision surgery to address the new problem.

Posterior cervical surgeries: foraminotomy, laminoplasty, laminectomy, instrumentation and fusion

- Prolonged post-operative neck pain, or no resolution of neck pain.
- Weakness of the neck muscles, which could result in progressive forward dropping of the head.
- Injury to a nerve, which may manifest as weakness or numbness in part of your arm, most commonly elevating the shoulder.
- Injury to the spinal cord injury resulting in partial of complete paralysis.
- Dural tear and persistent spinal fluid leakage, which may require surgery for repair.
- Failure of the bones to heal together, which may manifest as hardware breakage or screws pulling out, which may require revision surgery.
- Degeneration of level above or below the location of surgery, which may require revision surgery to incorporate the new level.

Anterior lumbar surgeries: anterior interbody fusion, lateral interbody fusion

- Irritation of the hip flexor muscle resulting in weakness in the thigh or hip and difficulty with walking because of hip weakness.
 - Irritation of the bowels resulting in a problem called ileus, which is a slowing or stoppage of the bowels, nausea, and vomiting.
 - Injury to the intestine, other abdominal organ, or vessel requiring emergent surgery for repair of the injured organ or vessel.
 - Injury to a nerve, which may manifest as weakness or numbness in part of your legs, or in rare instances in males a phenomenon called retrograde ejaculation during sexual activity.
 - Failure of the bones to heal together, which may manifest as hardware breakage, screws or cages pulling out, and which may require revision surgery.
 - Degeneration of the level above or below the location of surgery, which may require revision surgery to incorporate the new level.
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Posterior thoracic and lumbar surgeries without fusion: discectomy, foraminotomy, laminectomy

- Prolonged post-operative back pain, or no resolution of back pain.
 - Recurrence of the disc herniation, formation of scar tissue, or residual narrowing on a nerve, which may result in residual nerve pain or require additional surgery including fusion procedures.
 - Injury to a nerve, which may manifest as weakness or numbness in part of your leg, for example foot drop.
 - Injury to the spinal cord injury resulting in partial or complete paralysis.
 - Dural tear and persistent spinal fluid leakage, which may require surgery for repair.
 - Further degeneration or instability of the level operated on and/or another level above or below, which may require additional surgery including fusion procedures.
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Posterior thoracic and lumbar surgeries with fusion: laminectomy and fusion, interbody fusion, scoliosis surgery

- Prolonged post-operative back pain, or no resolution of back pain
- Nerve injury, which may manifest as weakness or numbness in part of your leg, for example foot drop.
- Injury to the spinal cord injury resulting in partial or complete paralysis.
- Dural tear and persistent spinal fluid leakage, which may require surgery for repair.
- Failure of the bones to heal together, which may manifest as hardware breakage or screws pulling out, which may require revision surgery.
- Degeneration of the level above or below the location of surgery, which may require revision surgery to incorporate the new level.