



NEUROSURGERY AND SPINE

19 Limestone Drive, Suite 11
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-634-3500



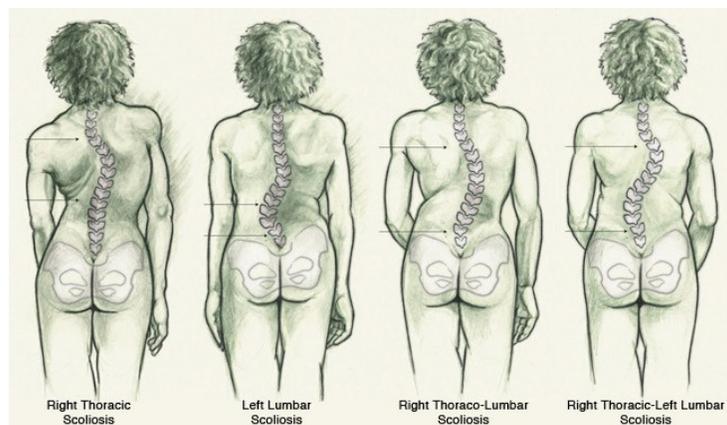
SCOLIOSIS

WHAT IS SCOLIOSIS?

Scoliosis is a sideways curvature of the spine that occurs most often during an individual's growth spurt just before puberty. The cause of most scoliosis is unknown, although co-existing conditions such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy are often contributing factors as are birth defects and injuries or infections of the spine.

Most cases of scoliosis are mild, but some children develop spine deformities that continue to get more severe as they grow. Severe scoliosis can be disabling, causing pain and dysfunction and even reducing the amount of space within the chest, making it difficult for the lungs to function properly.

When scoliosis is severe, or worsens beyond what a brace can stop, surgery may be considered to keep the scoliosis from worsening and to straighten severe cases of scoliosis.



SYMPTOMS OF SCOLIOSIS:

- Uneven shoulders
- One shoulder blade that appears more prominent than the other
- Uneven waist
- One hip appearing higher than the other
- Apparent differences in the length of the legs (often caused by the higher hip)
- Spinal rotation causing the ribs to protrude more on one side of the body

TREATMENT OF SCOLIOSIS:

In youth or when the scoliosis is determined to be of a more mild to moderate nature, the first step in treatment is often a brace.

The braces for children are usually made of plastic and made to conform to the body so they do not interfere with day-to-day life and activities. The child should wear the brace at all times, even when sleeping as the greater the number of hours a child wears the brace, the more likely to achieve correction.

The type of brace is dictated by the curvature and severity. Here are some examples of scoliosis bracing for young people. The brace is generally worn until the child has stopped growing.



In adults, the bracing available for scoliosis is designed to minimize continued curvature, enhance posture and reduce pain.

TREATMENT BEYOND BRACING:

- Physical therapy may be beneficial
- At home exercises taught by the physician or a physical therapist
- Non-surgical pain management
- Surgical intervention for severe curvature, lung compression, uncontrollable pain or neurodeficit

SURGICAL PROCEDURES FOR SCOLIOSIS:

There are various procedures that may be recommended for treatment of scoliosis, and depending upon severity, these surgical procedures may be "staged" or progressive in nature. Our team and Axis specializes in the minimally invasive approaches to surgery.

Dr. Den Haese will discuss what surgical options may be best for you should surgical intervention be an option.

