



NEUROSURGERY AND SPINE

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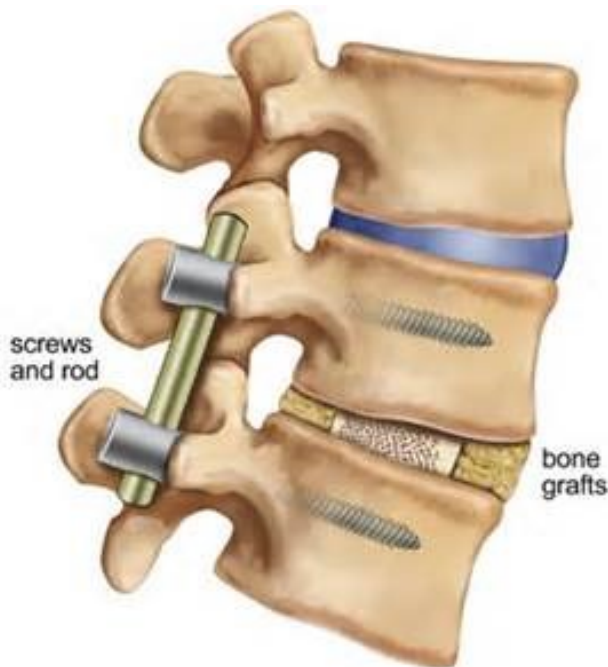
PEDICLE SCREW PLACEMENT FOR STABILIZATION AND FUSION

The pedicle screw is sometimes used as part of spinal fusion surgery. The pedicle screw serves as an anchoring point to additional instrumentation such as rods which are placed to hold an area of the spine stable while it heals after a spinal fusion.

Pedicle screws are placed at two or more consecutive spinal segments, and linked together by a rod to prevent motion at the segments being fused.



PERCUTANEOUS PEDICLE SCREW PLACEMENT



Percutaneous pedicle screw placement is done as part of a minimally invasive stabilization and/or fusion procedure. The percutaneous pedicle screws are placed with guidance from x-ray. This results in smaller incisions, muscle sparing and less chance for infection.

OPEN PEDICLE SCREW PLACEMENT

Occasionally a patient's specific condition or injury will require a more extensive stabilization than cannot be done in a minimally invasive manner. The word "open" means that stabilization with pedicle screw and rod placement will have to be done through a larger incision with larger muscle opening.