

Cervical Surgery Decision Aid: Dr. Katsuura's Guide for a Big Decision

Symptoms which may prompt you to consider cervical surgery: surgery can treat these



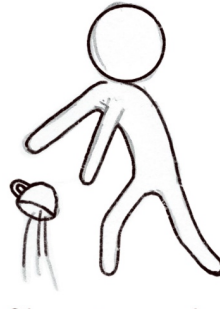
Neck pain



Arm pain, numbness, weakness



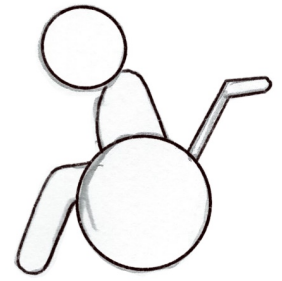
Imbalance



Clumsiness, loss of dexterity

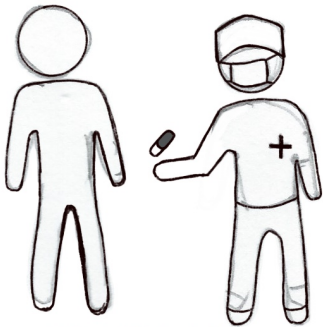


Incontinence

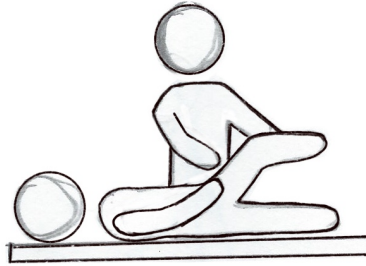


Inability to walk/paralysis

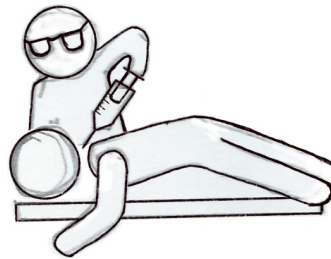
Treatments to consider before surgery: May try these individually or in combination



NSAIDS/ Pain medications



Physical therapy

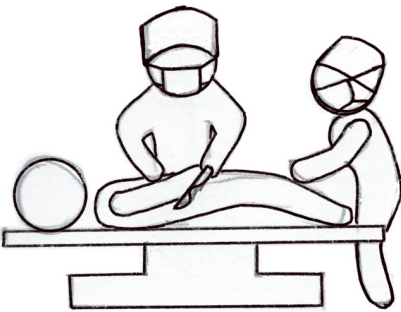


Injections



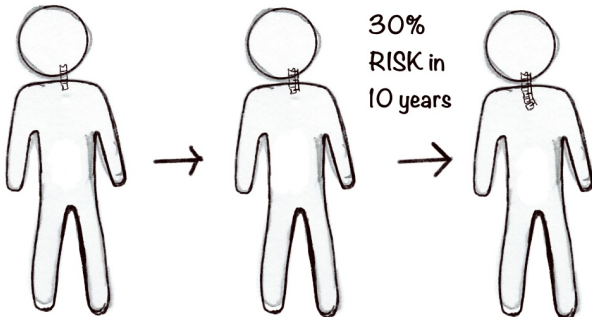
Sometimes you just get better with time

Things to consider about surgery: Sometimes surgery speeds recovery but know this:



Surgery has risks: for example scarring around nerves, infection (may require another surgery for washout), medical complications (like having a heart attack), nerve/spinal cord damage resulting in new weakness, pain or numbness.

There is a chance surgery wont take away your symptoms. Some symptoms may improve while others may not (numbness/weakness). Even if you get better, you may have other issues in the future. Surgery is used in some instances to prevent further neurological decline, but can't improve damage that has already occurred.



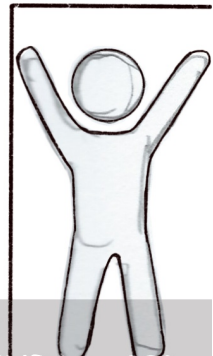
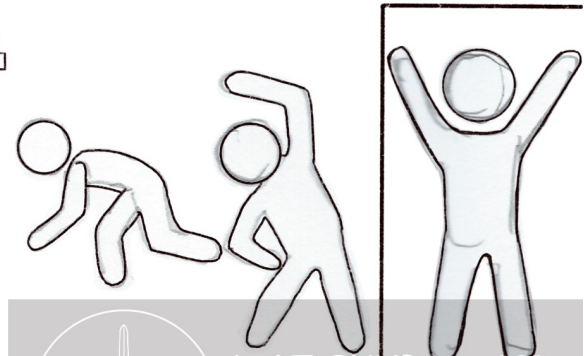
30% RISK in 10 years

Decompressions may need to be **revised to fusions** in the future

Fusions may need to be **extended or revised in the future**



There are post-op restrictions: no bending lifting or twisting.



Share in decisions!