

Laser spine surgery claims to be a quick outpatient procedure that allows one to regain their ability to enjoy life without the severe pain they previously felt. Yet, that doesn't seem to be the case. Contrary to an in-house study by the Laser Spine Institute, the majority of patients do not receive successful treatments.

The problem with the proliferation of [laser spine surgery](#) is due to public perception. People see lasers as a tool that's more precise than a scalpel and as safe as a thimble. While lasers have been around for a while now, these beliefs are wholly untrue. Lasers make it easier to cut disk tissue and other soft tissues, but with that ease comes a greater danger of damaging the nerve root, rather than with conventional means.

Laser spine surgery procedures developed in the late 1990s. The techniques are still considered new and untested by traditional surgeons. This causes insurance carriers to not cover these procedures due to their untested nature, leaving the patient to foot the bill.

Like any new procedure, it's risky. Patients have reported a number of issues, such as damage to the nerves and surrounding tissue, bowel damage, and experiencing no relief whatsoever. The claims that these procedures are minimally invasive are often untrue. Any cutting process is traumatic, and this one is no different. It requires a sizable incision with cutting through muscle, bone, ligaments and joint fragments. The damage to these tissues are often the cause of subsequent issues.

Yet, even where there is no relief, doctors continue billing the patients. Various complaints identify individuals who felt no relief, yet were stuck with thousands in unpaid medical bills.

This prompted a series of malpractice lawsuits against providers like Laser Spine Institute over the past 3 years.

For persons considering laser spine surgery, they should remember our discussion from last year's [article](#) on the subject. For auto accidents, an insurance carrier may flag claims where the claimant

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undergoes laser spine surgery. Carriers point to conventional pain management specialists who offer similar procedures for 1/6th the cost that Spine Surgeons charge. They argue that the nature of this type of surgery is untested and that it is based on financial gain, rather than the patient's well being. Furthermore, it opens up issues as to whether any lingering permanent injury was caused by the accident or the Laser Surgeon's "treatment."

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