



Queensland Government

## Cervical Laminectomy

Facility:

(Affix identification label here)

URN:

Family name:

Given name(s):

Address:

Date of birth:

Sex:  M  F  I

### A. Interpreter / cultural needs

- An Interpreter Service is required?  Yes  No  
If Yes, is a qualified Interpreter present?  Yes  No  
A Cultural Support Person is required?  Yes  No  
If Yes, is a Cultural Support Person present?  Yes  No

### B. Condition and treatment

The doctor has explained that you have the following condition: *(Doctor to document in patient's own words)*

.....  
.....  
This condition requires the following procedure. *(Doctor to document - include site and/or side where relevant to the procedure)*

.....  
.....  
A cervical laminectomy is performed to relieve the pressure on the spinal cord in your neck.

### C. Risks of a cervical laminectomy

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

**Common risks and complications (more than 5%)** include:

- Infection, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from IV cannula site. This may require treatment with antibiotics.

**Uncommon risks and complications (1-5%)** include:

- Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as anticoagulants (eg warfarin, dabigatran, rivaroxaban), antiplatelets (eg aspirin, clopidogrel, dipyridamole) or supplements like fish oil.
- Heart attack due to the strain on the heart.
- Stroke or stroke like complications may occur causing neurological deficits such as weakness in the face, arms and legs. This could be temporary or permanent.
- Nerve root injury causing a weak arm/s, or sensory loss. This may be temporary or permanent.
- Ongoing persistent neck and arm pain. This may not improve after surgery and may continue to deteriorate despite surgery.
- Ongoing deterioration in symptoms despite adequate decompression.
- Visual disturbance. This may be temporary or permanent.

- Small areas of the lung may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increase risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs.
- Instability or abnormal alignment of the cervical spine may occur that might require further surgery.

**Rare risks and complications (less than 1%)** include:

- Leakage of cerebrospinal fluid. This may require further surgery.
- Instability of the cervical spine which may require further surgery and fusion.
- Quadriplegia, which may be temporary or permanent.
- Injury to the vertebral artery, which may result in stroke.
- Meningitis may occur requiring further treatment and antibiotics.
- Due to limitations of imaging and body habitus occasionally a wrong level will be operated on necessitating further treatment.
- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.

### D. Significant risks and procedure options

*(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)*

### E. Risks of not having this procedure

*(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)*

### F. Anaesthetic

This procedure may require an anaesthetic. *(Doctor to document type of anaesthetic discussed)*



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## G. Patient consent

I acknowledge that the doctor has explained;

- my medical condition and the proposed procedure, including additional treatment if the doctor finds something unexpected. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- the anaesthetic required for this procedure. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- other relevant procedure/treatment options and their associated risks.
- my prognosis and the risks of not having the procedure.
- that no guarantee has been made that the procedure will improve my condition even though it has been carried out with due professional care.
- the procedure may include a blood transfusion.
- tissues and blood may be removed and could be used for diagnosis or management of my condition, stored and disposed of sensitively by the hospital.
- if immediate life-threatening events happen during the procedure, they will be treated based on my discussions with the doctor or my Acute Resuscitation Plan.
- a doctor other than the Consultant may conduct the procedure. I understand this could be a doctor undergoing further training.

**I have been given the following Patient Information Sheet/s:**

- About Your Anaesthetic**
- Cervical Laminectomy**
- Blood & Blood Products Transfusion**

- I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor about my condition, the proposed procedure and its risks, and my treatment options. My questions and concerns have been discussed and answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand I have the right to change my mind at any time, including after I have signed this form but, preferably following a discussion with my doctor.
- I understand that image/s or video footage may be recorded as part of and during my procedure and that these image/s or video/s will assist the doctor to provide appropriate treatment.

On the basis of the above statements,

**I request to have the procedure**

Name of Patient: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

## Patients who lack capacity to provide consent

Consent must be obtained from a substitute decision maker/s in the order below.

Does the patient have an Advance Health Directive (AHD)?

Yes ▶ Location of the original or certified copy of the AHD: .....

No ▶ Name of Substitute Decision Maker/s: .....

Signature: .....

Relationship to patient: .....

Date: ..... PH No: .....

**Source of decision making authority (tick one):**

- Tribunal-appointed Guardian
- Attorney/s for health matters under Enduring Power of Attorney or AHD
- Statutory Health Attorney
- If none of these, the Adult Guardian has provided consent. Ph 1300 QLD OAG (753 624)

## H. Doctor/delegate statement

I have explained to the patient all the above points under the Patient Consent section (G) and I am of the opinion that the patient/substitute decision-maker has understood the information.

Name of Doctor/delegate: .....

Designation: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

## I. Interpreter's statement

I have given a sight translation in

.....  
*(state the patient's language here)* of the consent form and assisted in the provision of any verbal and written information given to the patient/parent or guardian/substitute decision-maker by the doctor.

Name of Interpreter: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BINDING MARGIN

# Consent Information - Patient Copy

## Cervical Laminectomy

### 1. What is a cervical laminectomy?

A cervical laminectomy is performed to relieve the pressure on the spinal cord in your neck.

A cut will be made in the skin at the back of your neck. X-rays will be taken during surgery and used to confirm the correct levels of the spine.

Small portions of bone and ligaments will be removed from the affected cervical spine to relieve the pressure on the spinal cord.

The cut will be closed with stitches or staples.

### 2. My anaesthetic

This procedure will require a general anaesthetic.

See **About Your Anaesthetic information sheet** for information about the anaesthetic and the risks involved. If you have any concerns, discuss these with your doctor.

*If you have not been given an information sheet, please ask for one.*

### 3. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

**Common risks and complications (more than 5%)** include:

- Infection, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from IV cannula site. This may require treatment with antibiotics.

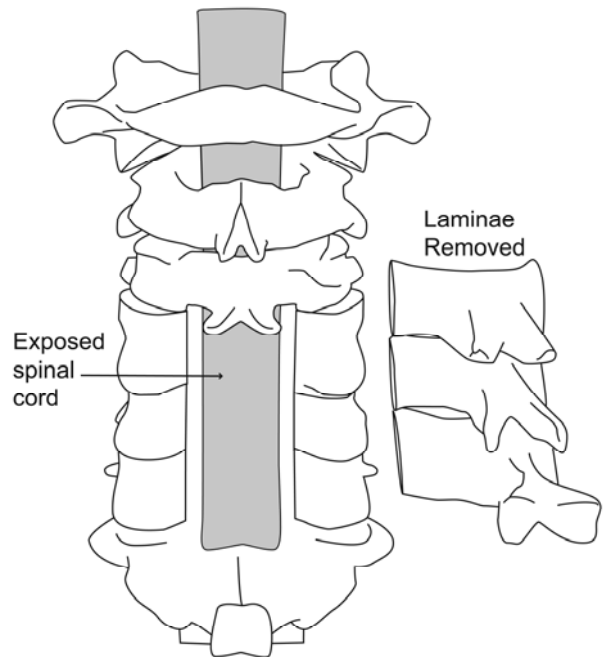
**Uncommon risks and complications (1-5%)** include:

- Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as anticoagulants (eg warfarin, dabigatran, rivaroxaban), antiplatelets (eg aspirin, clopidogrel, dipyridamole) or supplements like fish oil. Check with the treating doctor or relevant clinical staff if any medication you are taking, that is not list here, acts like a blood thinner.
- Heart attack due to the strain on the heart.
- Stroke or stroke like complications may occur causing neurological deficits such as weakness in the face, arms and legs. This could be temporary or permanent.
- Nerve root injury causing a weak arm/s, or sensory loss. This may be temporary or permanent.
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Cervical Laminectomy, Herston Multi Media Unit, RBWH, 2009

### Notes to talk to my doctor about:

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