

ENDOSCOPIC (KEY-HOLE) SURGERY FOR SCOLIOSIS

This highly specialised surgery is usually performed on patients with a moderate sized scoliosis curve in the thoracic spine. This technique is only offered by a limited number of doctors throughout the world.

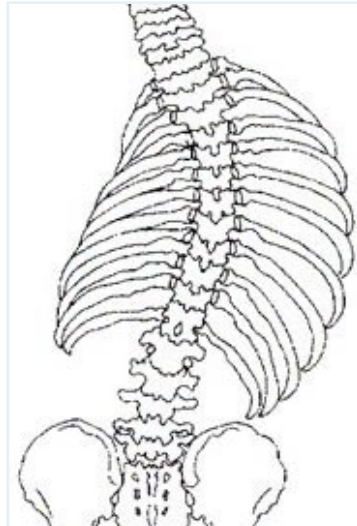
Most commonly, this technique is offered to younger patients, mostly teenagers, who have a scoliosis curve of 40 degrees or more in the thoracic spine. The surgery is performed under a special general anaesthetic that permits one of the lungs to be deflated. Special key-hole telescopic instruments allow the surgeon to enter the chest cavity and perform a removal of some of the discs that make up the scoliosis.

A single screw is placed into each vertebra bone through a total of 4 small 2cm long key-hole incisions that are made in the side wall of the chest, between the rib spaces. The patient needs to be asleep on their side for the duration of the surgery.

Bone graft is placed in the spaces between the vertebra where the discs were removed. The screw heads are compressed together and locked off to permit a straightening of the curved section of spine. Very little difference is noted however with regards to flexibility and movement of the back after the surgery.

Most patients stay in hospital for around 7 days after the surgery.

There is usually no need for a brace after the surgery.



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