

# POSTERIOR RODS FOR SCOLIOSIS

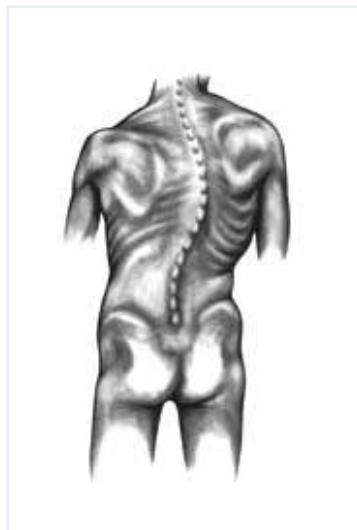
This operation is commonly performed on patients with a moderate to large sized scoliosis that usually involves the thoracic and lumbar spine.

The procedure is performed under general anaesthetic. Special care is taken during the operation to protect the patient, and in most cases includes pressure care attention and spinal cord electrical monitoring.

While asleep and face down, a small incision is made to expose the back muscles. Careful positioning of special screws, hooks, and two rods is then undertaken. A gentle correction of the curve in the spine is then performed with bone graft being added to stiffen that section of spine. Occasionally, special types of "growing rods" are inserted so as to allow further growth of the child's spine. This procedure requires repeat surgeries to progressively lengthen the spine.

This surgery has most patients in hospital for around one week. With the new "cell saver" service, any blood lost during the operation can be recycled and allows for an auto-transfusion. Very few patients therefore require a banked blood donation.

In most cases, a brace is not required after the surgery. Physiotherapy and hydrotherapy is sometimes useful after such scoliosis surgery.



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