**SPINE ASSOCIATES Surgical Treatments**

When it comes to spine surgery, it’s important to seek an expert- someone who not only knows and treats spines, but also specializes in solely in spine care. Dr. Francis has a dedicated surgical team that includes surgical assistants, OR nurses, anesthesiologists and neurophysiologists who have specialized training and experience. This team approach minimizes operating time and complications.

**Ahead of the Curve**

Spine Associates will always be ahead of the curve when it comes to the practice of spine medicine. We have made it our goal to stay on the forefront of technology, while maintaining a personal connection with patients and their families. Dr. Francis routinely uses minimally invasive surgical techniques which benefit patients by speeding recovery and minimizing post-operative pain. Most procedures are performed on an outpatient basis so our patients typically return home the same day­­­­.

To learn more about our surgery techniques and whether surgery is an option for your pain relief, [request a consultation](http://myspineassociates.com/make_an_appointment/) in Houston or Beaumont. Or you can call us at 1-713-383-7100 to schedule your appointment.

Below are some of the more common surgical treatments performed by Dr. Francis.

* [Robotic-Assisted Spine Surgery](http://myspineassociates.com/robotic-assisted-spine-surgery/)
* [Scoliosis & Reconstructive Surgery](http://myspineassociates.com/scoliosis-reconstructive-surgery/)
	+ [Adolescent](http://myspineassociates.com/adolescent-scoliosis-surgery/)
	+ [Adult](http://myspineassociates.com/adult-scoliosis-surgery/)
* [Artificial Disc Replacement](http://myspineassociates.com/artificial-disc-replacement/)
	+ [Lumbar (low back)](http://myspineassociates.com/lumbar-disc-replacement/)
	+ [Cervical (neck)](http://myspineassociates.com/cervical-disc-replacement/)
* [Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery](http://myspineassociates.com/robotic-assisted-spine-surgery/minimally-invasive-spine-surgery/)
* [Revision & Reconstructive Spine Surgery](http://myspineassociates.com/revision-and-reconstructive-spine-surgery/)
* [SI Joint Fusion](http://myspineassociates.com/si-joint-fusion/)

**Patient Ambassador Program – Back to Normal…**

**Talk with someone who understands**

When you are trying to make a decision about spine surgery as a treatment option, it often helps to connect with someone who has had an experience similar to your own. If you have questions, or just want to listen to what others have to say about their experience, the Spine Associates Patient Ambassador Program is here to help.

**What is the Patient Ambassador Program?**

Created by patients for patients, the Patient Ambassador Program gives you the opportunity to have candid, one-on-one discussions with people who have has spine surgery and have volunteered to share their personal experiences with the patient’s considering surgery.

**Meet Our Featured Ambassadors**

Read what others have to say about their experiences with spine surgery and how it has allowed them to get *back to normal.* The following stories describe the experiences of people who have received treatment by Dr. Francis.



**Jodi’s Story**Adult Scoliosis Correction & Revision Spine Surgery – Paramedic for Victoria Fire Department (Retired)

*“Addressing the issue of spine surgery can be lonely and frightening. It is gratifying to be able to share positive experiences with new patients.”*

Just a little over one year ago, I believe I had almost come to the point where I felt I might have to accept pain as a way of life, along with the inability to stand up straight or walk normally. After meeting with Dr. Francis and his fantastic staff at Spine Associates, I began to believe that I actually had a chance to improve my quality of life. I just had no idea how true that would be!

Almost two years following the last of two prior back surgeries, my condition seemed to be worsening, and I was in constant pain. I had always been very physically active, and it was difficult not to be able to do so many things that make up who I am.

Now I am almost one year post-operative with Dr. Francis; having found Dr. Francis is just one more thing for which I have to be truly thankful!

Dr. Francis is caring and compassionate and, at the same time, he is honest and straightforward, so that I could be informed and actively involved in decisions regarding my own health. I believe his skill as a surgeon is an absolute gift. He cares deeply about the overall well being of each patient , as well as caring about him or her as individuals.

Thanks to this awesomely talented and skilled man, I feel normal again, and each day brings continued improvement in my condition.

Thank you, Dr. Francis for giving me my life back!

For further information or to contact Dr. Richard Francis’ office, please see below.

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**Adam’s Story**

Lumbar Artificial Disc Replacement – Firefighter for Victoria Fire Department

*“I am a Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Victoria. I started having severe back problems in 2011/12. I suffered from pain in my lower back L5/S1 area that shot down my leg causing pain and sometimes numbness. Often times this pain was unbearable and completely debilitating.”*

 Every move I made was deliberate and intentional. I thought before a walked, stood or bent down to pick something up. I couldn’t play softball, golf or do cross-fit, no jogging and no lifting weights as this would cause excruciating pain. I was turning into a couch potato.  I heard about Spine Associates through a co-worker whom had a family member treated by DR. R. Francis. Prior to the disk replacement I had several epidurals, intramuscular analgesic injections, pain medication prescriptions as well as attending several physical therapists for treatment. All of which would only mask the symptoms. It was only a matter of time before I was back with the same issues.

My recovery was fast! The hospital stay was for one night where my care surpassed all my expectations. My pain was minimal and I was released to go home with only a simple small bandage.

Satisfied is not the right word. I am ecstatic with the care I received from Dr. R. Francis and the folks at Spine Associates. I literally feel 10 years younger.

Within 6 weeks I was back to work with no restrictions. I can pick up my 18 month old daughter out of her crib and play with her like her father should be able to. I am also playing softball, golf and exercising for fun again.

I thought at the end of my rope and had all but given into the idea that back pain was a part of my life. I thought I would never be as active as I once was, more over I thought my career was in jeopardy because I could no longer pass the strenuous physical fitness requirements.

I consulted with another spine specialist for a second opinion and he had recommended a multi-level spinal fusion for several disks to alleviate my back pain. Dr. Francis recommended an artificial disk replacement. Needless to say, I went with Dr. Francis and Spinal Associates. They have given me my freedom and livelihood back. I cannot recommend Spinal Associates enough for people suffering from back pain, do yourself a favor and get your back issues taken care of correctly, the first time.