Patient Testimonials for Spine Surgeon Dr. Richard Francis

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**Houston**

9301 Southwest Freeway
Suite 600
Houston, Texas
77074

[Directions](http://myspineassociates.com/directions/)

**Beaumont**

One Folsom Building
3820 Pointe Parkway
Beaumont, Texas
77706

[Directions](http://myspineassociates.com/directions/)

**Contact**

1-888-977-4625

info@myspineassociates.com

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**Wendy Strange**“I am 46 years old and was diagnosed with Scoliosis (thoracic and lumbar curves) at age 14. I wore a brace for 1 year at that time. It has only been in the last 10 years that I have noticed significant changes in the degree of my curves and pain in my back. While I was not in severe pain, it was a constant discomfort that never went away and my previous doctor had offered me NOTHING to help me to deal with my condition. Then I went to see Dr. Francis. I was so relieved when he said that he could correct my spine. I did not want my scoliosis to continue to progress, leaving me crippled and unable to live the active lifestyle that my husband and I enjoy. Dr. Francis took every step necessary to insure that I received the best possible outcome with my surgery. He answered any and every question that we had. I have been so impressed with the personal and undivided attention I have received while in his care. After surgery, I was very diligent in following the Post-Op instructions. Dr. Francis had said that I would be able to dance at my son’s wedding eight weeks after surgery, and he was right, I did.”

#### Kathlena Mailloux“Dr. Francis is the first surgeon in 20 years that has given me any hope/chance of being pain free.  Other surgeons had “written me off” as a patient whom they did not want to do surgery on.  Dr. Francis, with the new technique of titanium pin work on the spine, I believe will give many “written off” patients another chance of enjoying their lives.  I’m glad to know him.”

#### Mark Seaman“Lower Lumbar Fusion Surgery was the best thing I have ever done. I suffered with chronic back pain for over 20 years. Being in the Army, they didn’t really do anything for me except prescribe Motrin. I was diagnosed with Degenerative Disc Disease in 1997, and still nothing was done. I retired from the Army in 2004 and moved to Houston in 2009. My PCP (primary care physician) recommended Dr. Richard Francis for my back troubles and after a series of exams I underwent Lower Lumbar Fusion Surgery. I am now pain-free for the first time in decades. Dr. Francis and his staff are very caring and I highly recommend him as a spine specialist and surgeon.”

#### ****Andys Hernandez – Channelview, TX****My back pain started suddenly while I was walking and I had to be transported in an ambulance because my pain was so intense. I thought it was a muscle spasm, but the pain got worse instead of getting better. My pain would wake me up at night and I could barely pick up my daughter who was 6 months old at the time. I decided to see my family doctor and he recommended Spine Associates. Dr. Francis saw me on a Saturday and found that I had a large herniated disc in my low back and due to the size of the disc and the severe weakness in my leg, he recommended surgery to remove the disc that was pressing on my nerves. The surgery was very quick and as soon as I woke up I no longer felt the pain that I had before. It was immediate relief and I went home the same day. It took about a week for me to recover from surgery and I went back to my job as a dimensional engineer. Looking back, I wouldn’t do anything differently. I followed instructions and went to physical therapy and I no longer have any issues with my back or leg. I am thankful to be able to hold and play with my daughter without pain.

**Pablo Garza – Channelview, TX**Dr. Francis is by far the best doctor I have encountered. He and his staff gave me 100% care & attention, which is rare these days. He takes the time to explain your diagnosis & procedure that will follow. I’ve had pain & numbness in my arms, shoulder and fingers for several years now. I would drop things or they would slip out of my hands. It was very frustrating! I was not looking forward to my surgery, as thoughts of something going wrong consumed me. I went through the surgery & woke a new man, I was still groggy, but noticed that I could feel my fingers & life my arm with no pain. It was almost instant healing! I got my life back and I’m able to perform my duties and tasks that were challenging and painful prior to my surgery. Thank you Dr. Francis! I have already referred several friends to Spine Associates for their back and neck issues.

#### ****Brenda Douglas – Sugar Land, TX****It all started with a sneeze.  I was dealing with allergies and I went into a sneezing fit and with the last sneeze I felt excruciating back pain. The next day I could barely walk do to the pain in my back, but I went to work anyway thinking that the pain would eventually settle down. The back pain settled, but then y coworker noticed me limping, but I wasn’t aware that I was limping. By the fourth day, I was so miserable that I had to call into work due to the pain and weakness that I felt in my leg. I went to a doctor and she offered me strong pain medications, injections and physical therapy.  I do not like taking pain medications and I didn’t know how I would be able to participate in physical therapy because I was in so much discomfort.  I knew something was wrong with my body and I wanted it to be fixed. I heard about Dr. Francis from a close friend of mine whose husband had just had surgery with Dr. Francis.  I told her about what was going on and she said that I needed to see Dr. Francis and he would be able to help me.  I argued at first because my pain was in my leg and I didn’t know how a spine specialist could help with my leg pain.  I went ahead and called and I was offered an appointment the very next day.  Dr. Francis already had an idea of what was wrong with me as soon as he saw me walking down the hall and dragging my foot.  We decided that surgery would be the best option due to the weakness I was already experiencing.  I went home the same day of surgery and began walking that day.  I only needed pain medication for one day after surgery because I found that walking helped my postoperative pain more than anything.  The more I walked the better I felt.  I am pain free and I continue to walk and monitor my progress with a fit bit. I am so happy to be back to normal and I am getting ready to enjoy my retirement.

**Mia Suniga – Scoliosis Correction**I had my scoliosis correction and now I am very excited about getting back to drill team at my high school.  The recovery from the surgery was a little longer than I expected, but I don’t regret having it done. I loved the hospital and the nurses were awesome! I am happy

**Irene Gutierrez – Channelview, TX**When my back issues started, I had a hard time climbing stairs and sometimes walking was hard for me. I was in chronic pain and it caused me depression because my quality of life was poor. Dr. Francis was able to fix my back problems and now I am pain free. He is a blessing and I would recommend him to anyone looking to feel better. He and his staff are understanding and caring and they he takes time with you to fix your issues. Having surgery was the best decision I made. I have range of motion and I am out of pain.

#### ****Gary Hackler – Lake Jackson, TX****Dr. Francis and his entire staff are truly amazing. From the first phone call to his office, first encounter with office/clerical staff, meeting his medical staff & then Dr. Francis. One of Dr. Francis staff even shared her lunch snack with me as I hadn’t eaten. I was treated with such professionalism and I valued the knowledge of the latest surgical technique. I have since recommended others to Spine Associates. I had a laminectomy decompression procedure and I am completely satisfied with the results. I walked out of the surgery feeling so much better.

#### For further information about Houston Spine Surgeon Dr. Richard Francis or to contact his office please Call 1(888) 977-4625 or Visit the Website at <http://www.myspineassociates.com/> Houston Beaumont9301 Southwest Freeway One Folsom BuildingSuite 600 3820 Pointe ParkwayHouston, Texas, 77074 Beaumont, Texas 77706