

## Cervical Disc Anatomy 5- Is My Spinal Cord Affected By A Cervical Herniated Disc

So where is the spinal cord in all of these, the spinal cord starts up in the brain and goes down the spine all the way to about midway here, and the spinal cord controls all the sorts of functions in the body and if there is spinal cord compression, some of these functions may be altered such as difficulty with walking; with gait, stumbling gait, even problems with bowel or bladder function and frequently when a spinal cord problem happens, it is called spinal cord compression and that is a serious problem that frequently leads to surgery. So on your MRI scan, you will see a report in the impression section, it will say no spinal cord compression or it will say significant spinal cord compression or maybe moderate but it does give the doctor an idea of how much pressure is on the spinal cord. We really want to protect the spinal cord at all time. I would like to think in the spinal cord as a fiberoptic cable, sort of like going down the street carrying all the signals for your telephone, for your Internet, for your TV, it is a glass structure that you do not want to disturb at all, and when you do knock it all sorts of haywire occurs at home. So the spinal cord really has to be protected, we are very concerned about it, but the good news is that most of the time with the cervical herniated disc we are not worried of dealing with a spinal cord problem. Most of the time, we are talking about a nerve root problem where the nerve root is pinched and you develop symptoms into one or both of the arms.

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