

Ascension Texas Spine & Scoliosis

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New surgery corrects spinal curves through minimally invasive procedure

Stephanie is an active teenager who enjoys dancing and hanging out with her friends. Like most teenagers, the idea of slowing down because of a spinal deformity like scoliosis was not at all appealing. Neither was the fact that her spinal curve was worsening.

Stephanie was first diagnosed with scoliosis at the age of 14. Her physician first tried conservative options, which included watchful waiting. As time went by, however, Stephanie's curve worsened significantly to 41 degrees. Stephanie's physician then referred her to Dr. Matthew Geck, a fellowship-trained spine surgeon at Texas Spine and Scoliosis in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Geck tried a non-surgical option first, a brace, but her curve continued to worsen to 50 degrees. Also, Stephanie did not like the deformed shape of her spine and she began experiencing back pain symptoms from the spinal curve.

Dr. Geck presented to Stephanie and her parents an exciting new option: a new minimally invasive scoliosis procedure that corrects the spinal curve through three small incisions instead of long incision and scar.

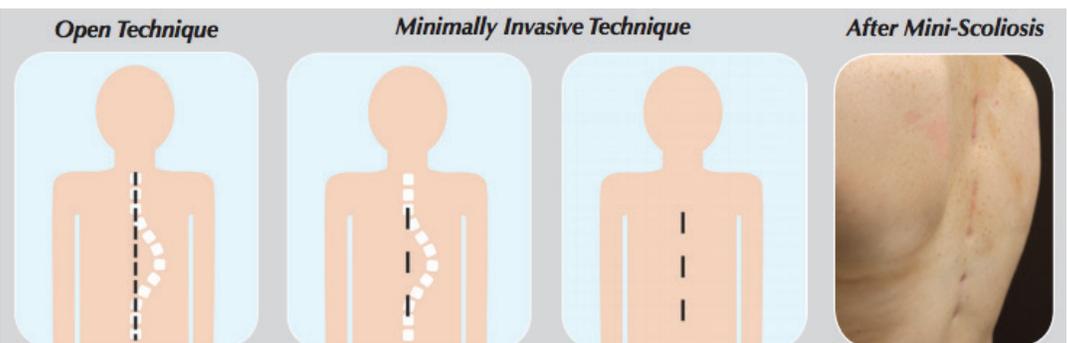
"It has taken years to bring minimally invasive surgery techniques to scoliosis surgery," explains Dr. Geck, the first spine surgeon in Texas to perform minimally invasive posterior scoliosis surgery.

"In the past, to get access to the spine typically meant making a long incision the length of the back to attach instruments to unwind the spinal curve," says Dr. Geck. "In minimally invasive scoliosis surgery, we make three small incisions instead of a single long one."

The benefits are significant - less muscle is cut, less blood loss and much smaller scar, shorter hospital stay, less pain, and because of the muscle sparing approach, a faster return to normal activity.



Only four days after her minimally invasive scoliosis surgery, Stephanie was back at school, eager to get back to her active teenage life, including dance team.



Traditional scoliosis surgery involves a single long incision. Using a minimally invasive approach to scoliosis surgery involves less scarring, less muscle dissection, less chance of tissue complications and less blood loss. Other advantages include shorter hospital stay, less pain, and because of the muscle sparing approach, faster return to activity. "Mini-scoliosis" surgery corrected Stephanie's spinal curve from 50 degrees to 12 degrees with only three small scars.