

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 Seton 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.

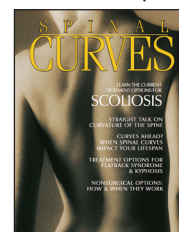
"It has taken years to bring minimally invasive surgery techniques to scoliosis surgery," explains Dr. Geck, the first spine surgeon in Texas to perform minimally invasive posterior scoliosis surgery.

"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 -



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.

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.



Open Technique	Minimally Invasive Technique	After Mini-Scoliosis
<p>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.</p>		



Above, John Stokes, MD, a spine neurosurgeon, and Matthew Geck, MD, an orthopedic spine surgeon, at Seton Spine & Scoliosis Center in Austin, Texas. Dr. Geck was the first surgeon in Texas to perform minimally invasive scoliosis surgery.

Seton Spine & Scoliosis Center in Austin, Texas, is a regional referral center for the treatment of back and neck pain and scoliosis (curvature of the spine). Matthew Geck, MD, over the past 10 years has developed a highly regarded scoliosis practice in Central Texas. If you would like a copy of Spinal Curves Journal, about advances in the treatment of scoliosis or our 36-page Home Remedy Book for back and neck pain, call us, and we'll send them to you free.

Seton Spine & Scoliosis Center

A program of the  Seton Brain & Spine Institute

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