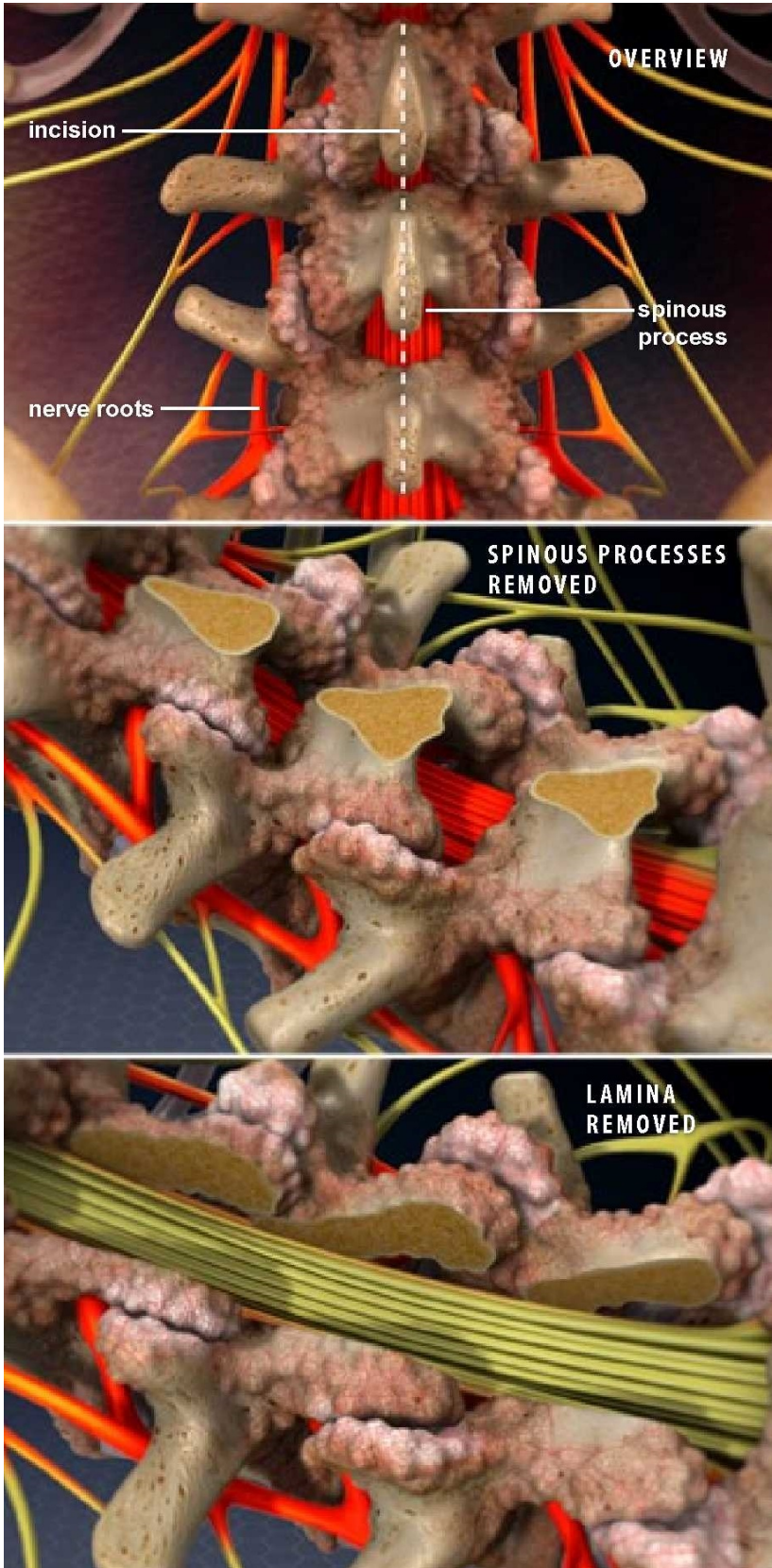




Laminectomy



Overview

A laminectomy procedure relieves pressure on the nerve roots in the spine, usually caused by stenosis. The surgery removes the “back” of the spinal canal at the affected vertebra, providing more room for the nerves to flow without compression.

Removing the Spinous Process

The surgeon makes an incision in your back to access the spine. The surgeon identifies the involved vertebra and removes its spinous process (bony protrusion that sticks out from the rear of the vertebra).

Removing the Lamina

The surgeon next removes the lamina, the part of each vertebra that forms the rear portion of the spinal canal. This removal opens up the spinal canal and creates more space for the nerves. The surgeon may need to remove the lamina from more than one vertebra.

Clearing Bony Growths

The surgeon may also need to treat the foramina. These are the openings on the sides of the vertebrae where nerve roots exit the spinal canal. The foramina may also cause nerve compression due to excess bony growth that the surgeon will clear away. This will allow a wider, smoother opening for the nerve roots.

End of Procedure

When the procedure is complete, the incision is closed with stitches or staples. Physical therapy is usually required.