



Medtronic

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Patient Profile - Trisha

Trisha Springfield

Spinal fusion patient

Lake Cormorant, Miss.

A few days after competing in a national all-terrain vehicle (ATV) race, Trisha noticed some tingling and numbness in her legs. When the sensation didn't subside, she visited her doctor, who thought she had irritated her sciatic nerve and asked her to cut back on her physical activities for a while to give it a chance to heal.

A few months later, Trisha sat in disbelief in a surgeon's office. She was told she needed major surgery that would involve cutting her back muscle and could cause loss of movement. It also meant she would have to give up her favorite activities—running, hiking, playing basketball, riding ATVs and camping—for at least a year.

Trisha was born with a condition that caused two vertebrae to slip out of alignment and pinch her spinal nerves. Although it took years for the condition to surface, surgery was needed as quickly as possible to fuse the vertebrae together and prevent permanent spinal damage.

"I'm a very active person and the thought of being out of work, confined to my bed and away from my favorite activities for a year or more was too much," said Trisha. "I knew I needed to find a better treatment option."

She was later referred to Dr. Kevin Foley, a neurosurgeon at Semmes-Murphey Clinic in Memphis, Tenn. More diagnostic tests revealed that her condition was even more serious than the first surgeon estimated. She indeed needed immediate, major surgery.

Dr. Foley proposed using the CD HORIZON® SEXTANT™ Spinal System to perform a minimally invasive lumbar fusion surgery. Trisha's back muscles would not be cut and she would only be in the hospital for a few days. Best of all she would likely be back to work within weeks and could resume her physical activities in just a few months.

Trisha had surgery first thing in the morning on a Wednesday. The next night, she was able to walk in the recovery room and on Friday morning she went home. She stayed at home for a few more weeks before returning to her job and travel schedule, flying to locations all over the world.

"The surgery was a great success, I am able to compete now. I'm racing my four-wheeler again and riding my Jet Ski. If I had the surgery with the first doctor, I could still be recovering."

This story reflects the personal experience of the individual featured and does not represent Medtronic's or the medical profession's official recommendations. Therapies and results may vary, as each case is unique.

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