Lumbar Laminectomy And Fusion

Complications/Risks

Not complete or inclusive

After your Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion procedure, there are a number of things to be aware of during and after the recovery process. As with any surgical procedure there are certain risks involved, although the majority of patients will not experience them.

WITHIN DAYS OR WEEKS

General anesthestic / medication adverse reactions
(eg, heart, lung, mental problems, etc)

Blood transfusion reactions

Infections
- treatment depends on seriousness of infection
- possible oral antibiotics
- possible intravenous antibiotics for weeks
  - possible insertion of special catheter for I.V. antibiotics treatment
- possible re-operations for debridement and closure of wound
- potential extended time in hospital or potential re-operations
- possible removal of instrumentations, if present

Post-operative hemorrhage
- re-operations with extended recovery time

Spinal fluid leakage
- membranes covering the nerves are often thinned by herniated discs or stenosis and can open
- treatment includes extended bed rest with head of bed flat
- or spinal fluid drainage catheter in low back
- or re-operations

Nerve problems (spinal cord or nerve root)
- temporary (weeks/months) or rarely permanent
- new or worse pain
- numbness, weakness, or very rarely paralysis
- bowel or bladder difficulty

WITHIN MONTHS OR YEARS (DELAYED)

Excessive scar tissue with recurrent pain
disc herniation
Spinal instability

ALL OF THE ABOVE POSSIBLY LEAD TO NEW SYMPTOMS

These could lead to re-operations and fusions
These occasionally lead to new permanent nerve and other problems