

## **Glossary of Neurological Disorders and Neurosurgical Procedures**

This glossary of neurological disorders and treatments, including back, neck and spine conditions, is no substitute for medical information and advice from your healthcare provider. This is by no means a comprehensive compilation of neurological conditions and treatments, nor do the entries thoroughly define conditions, their signs and symptoms, or treatment options.

**Acoustic neuroma** — benign tumor on the nerve connecting the ear to the brain.

**Acute spinal cord injury (SCI)** — traumatic injury that results in a contusion (bruise), a partial tear or a complete tear (transection) in the spinal cord, and a common cause of permanent disability.

**Cerebral aneurysm** — also called an intracranial aneurysm or brain aneurysm, it is a bulging, weakened area in the wall of an artery in the brain which poses a risk of rupturing.

**Craniotomy** — surgical procedure under the bone flap of the skull to remove a tumor, clot or aneurysm.

**Discectomy** — surgical removal of ruptured or herniated disc material in the spine.

**Encephalitis** — inflammation, or swelling, of the brain.

**Extreme lateral interbody fusion (XLIF)** — minimally invasive spinal fusion surgery to treat leg or back pain, performed through the patient's side to avoid major back muscles.

**Herniated disc** — occurs when a tear in the outer ring of an intervertebral disc allows the soft, central portion to bulge out beyond the damaged outer rings.

**Intracranial pressure monitor** — surgically implanted device in the brain to monitor pressure levels.

**Kyphoplasty** — minimally invasive surgical procedure using a balloon to restore height and shape to compressed vertebra in the spine.

**Laminectomy** — spinal operation to remove part of the vertebral bone (lamina).

**Laminoplasty** — treats spinal stenosis by cutting the vertebral bone (lamina) and relieving pressure on the spinal cord.

**Lumbar disc disease** — see Herniated disc.

**Neurocutaneous syndrome** — broad term for a group of neurologic (brain, spine and peripheral nerve) disorders that can cause nonmalignant tumors to grow inside the brain, spinal cord, organs, skin and bones.

**Tuberous sclerosis (TS)** — classified as a neurocutaneous syndrome, it causes growths, called tubers, to develop in the brain and on other vital organs.

**Peripheral nerve release** — surgical procedure to remove pressure from the peripheral nerve in the spinal cord.

**Spinal fusion** — surgical addition of a bone graft to join and prevent motion of two or more cervical, thoracic or lumbar vertebrae.

**Sympathectomy** — surgical cauterization of the sympathetic nerve to eliminate excessive sweating or blushing.

**Transsphenoidal pituitary tumor removal** — surgical procedure performed through the nasal passage to remove a tumor.

**Trans sacral lumbar interbody fusion** — minimally invasive surgical procedure to treat painful disc degeneration in the spine by fusing the front part of the lumbar from below.

**Vertebroplasty** — bone cement is surgically injected into the spine to stabilize a fractured vertebra.

**VP shunts** — cerebrospinal fluid is surgically shunted from cavities in the brain into the abdominal cavity to relieve pressure.

**X-stop spacer** — a surgical implant that lifts vertebra off a pinched nerve in the spine to relieve pain.