

Spine Surgery / Neurosurgery

The Spine Surgery / Neurosurgery or Neuro-Spine Program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center primarily serves patients that have suffered brain and spinal cord injuries and is an essential component of the Los Angeles County - University of Southern California (LAC-USC) / Rancho Los Amigos Comprehensive Epilepsy Center.

The Neuro-Spine Program provides complex spinal surgeries, including neural decompression, instrumented and non-instrumented fusions, and deformity correction for patients suffering from a spinal cord injury. With respect to peripheral nerve surgery, the Neuro-Spine surgeons at Rancho Los Amigos also conducts nerve biopsies, decompressions, and transpositions. The patients that benefit from these surgeries include those with peripheral neuropathies of unknown origin, as well as those suffering from radial, ulnar, and median nerve compression. The Neuro-Spine Program has a comprehensive cranial vault reconstruction program that has achieved local and national notoriety for their success in treating patients with head injuries. Since its inception in 2007, almost 100 cranial vault reconstruction surgeries have been performed with high patient satisfaction. The program is now the busiest of its kind in the United States.

In 2011, the Neuro-Spine Program initiated Phase II evaluation for patients with medically intractable epilepsy. As part of the LAC-USC/Rancho Los Amigos Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, the Neuro-Spine service works closely with the Epilepsy Monitoring Program at Rancho Los Amigos. Patients undergo video-EEG monitoring, imaging, and neuropsychological evaluation, and when appropriate undergo invasive EEG monitoring with sub-dural electrodes.

Resection of the seizure foci are performed at the LAC-USC Medical Center in Los Angeles. The LAC-USC/Rancho Los Amigos Comprehensive Epilepsy Center received a Special Merit Plaque at the Los Angeles County 25th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards ceremony in 2011. The Neuro-Spine service welcomes patient referrals for consultation and treatment.

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