

Oh, My Aching Back!

Spinal surgery now available in Katy.

There's no longer any need to travel outside of Katy for specialized medical care. Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital's "dream team" of highly skilled and specialized surgeons – along with a dedicated and talented support staff – offers leading-edge technology and advanced surgical techniques, right here in the community.

Dr. Matthew Wasserman, an orthopedic surgeon, performs a variety of spinal surgeries at Memorial Hermann Katy.

The minimally invasive microscopic discectomy, a procedure to repair herniated discs, can be performed in as little as an hour, depending on the extent of disc herniation, the size of the patient and other factors.

Another surgery, kyphoplasty, has proven effective for vertebral compression fractures resulting from osteoporosis, cancer, or traumatic injury. Following X-rays and MRIs to determine the exact location of a fracture, a hollow instrument is inserted into the collapsed vertebra. A tiny balloon is inserted through the instrument and carefully inflated to return the vertebra to the correct position. The balloon is then deflated and removed, and bone cement is injected to stabilize the fracture. Benefits to patients include significant reduction in back pain, reduction of spinal deformity, improved quality of life, and greater mobility. Kyphoplasty also offers cost and recovery time advantages when compared with more invasive techniques. Recovery time can vary, but patients are usually up and walking on the day after surgery.

Katy's Brenda Weatherford had suffered with back problems for 20 years. After a consultation with Dr. Wasserman, she elected to undergo spinal surgery at Memorial Hermann Katy. "The results were beyond my expectations," says Weatherford. "I felt better immediately following the procedure, and my husband says I'm even better than I was before. The recovery time was very short, and I only needed a few months of physical therapy as a follow-up."

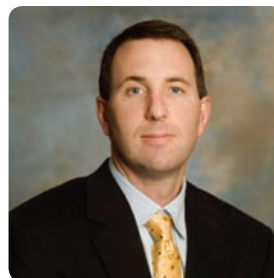


Weatherford adds that having her surgery at Memorial Hermann Katy was a great experience, too "It was like staying at a hotel. I loved eating when I wanted to eat, the private rooms and incredible staff – I couldn't have been happier with the whole experience."

Dr. Wasserman is the only physician performing spinal surgery in Katy. "All of my patients are happy to know that their surgery

can be done safely and effectively right here in Katy, where family members can visit without having to make the long drive to Houston," Dr. Wasserman says.

He is currently training for cervical disc replacement and a minimally invasive lumbar fusion technique called the XLIF advanced procedure, which is performed at very few other hospitals outside the Texas Medical Center and nowhere else in Katy.



If you are considering spine surgery, you may be able to take advantage of this new surgical specialty at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital. Call 713.222.CARE (2273) to be referred for a private consultation.

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