

Early vs. Later Decompression of Cervical Spinal Cord Injuries with Spinal Cord Compression

J.B. Sledge, III, MD; D.G. Anderson, MD; M.G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCS(C); A.R. Vaccaro, MD

North American spine surgeons, under the guidance of Dr. Fehlings, will be participating in the Surgical Treatment of Acute Spinal Cord Injury Study (STASCIS). This is a randomized, controlled multicenter trial designed to evaluate the effect of early (≤ 12 hours) versus later (≥ 24 hours) decompression surgery on neurologic recovery following cervical spine trauma. Four hundred fifty patients with cervical spinal cord injury will be batch randomized according to age, sex, American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) score and center to either early or late decompression. Patients will be evaluated by ASIA score and FIM score at up to one year to compare the two groups.