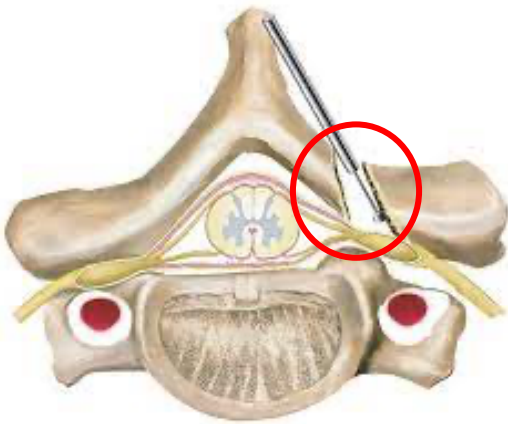


### What is a Cervical Foraminotomy?

A cervical foraminotomy is performed to relieve cervical spinal nerve compression that is causing arm and hand pain.

An X-ray is taken during surgery and used to confirm the correct level of surgery. A cut is made in the back of the neck. A small amount of bone and ligament is removed from the spine on the affected side to gain access to the nerve of the spine that is causing pain. The structures which are compressing the nerve are removed to create space around the affected nerve. The cut will be closed with stitches or staples.



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### Anaesthetic

This procedure will require a general anaesthetic. Please speak to your anaesthetist about the anaesthetic and the risks involved.

### What are the risks of this specific procedure?

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

#### Common risks and complications (more than 5%)

- Infection requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from IV cannula site. This may require treatment with antibiotics.

#### Uncommon risks and complications (1-5%)

- Bleeding can occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs.
- Heart attack due to the strain on the heart.
- Stroke or stroke like complications may occur causing neurological deficits such as weakness in the face, arms and legs. This could be temporary or permanent.
- Nerve root injury that causes a weak arm/s, or sensory loss. This may be temporary or permanent.
- Ongoing persistent neck and arm pain. This may not improve after surgery and may continue to deteriorate despite surgery.
- Ongoing deterioration in symptoms despite adequate decompression.
- Visual disturbance. This may be temporary or permanent.
- Small areas of the lung may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increase risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT)
- Pulmonary embolism (PE)

#### Rare risks and complications (less than 1%)

- Leakage of cerebrospinal fluid. This may require further surgery.
- Instability of the cervical spine, which may require further surgery and fusion.
- Quadriplegia which may be temporary or permanent.
- Injury to the vertebral artery which may result in a stroke.
- Meningitis may occur requiring further treatment and antibiotics.
- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.