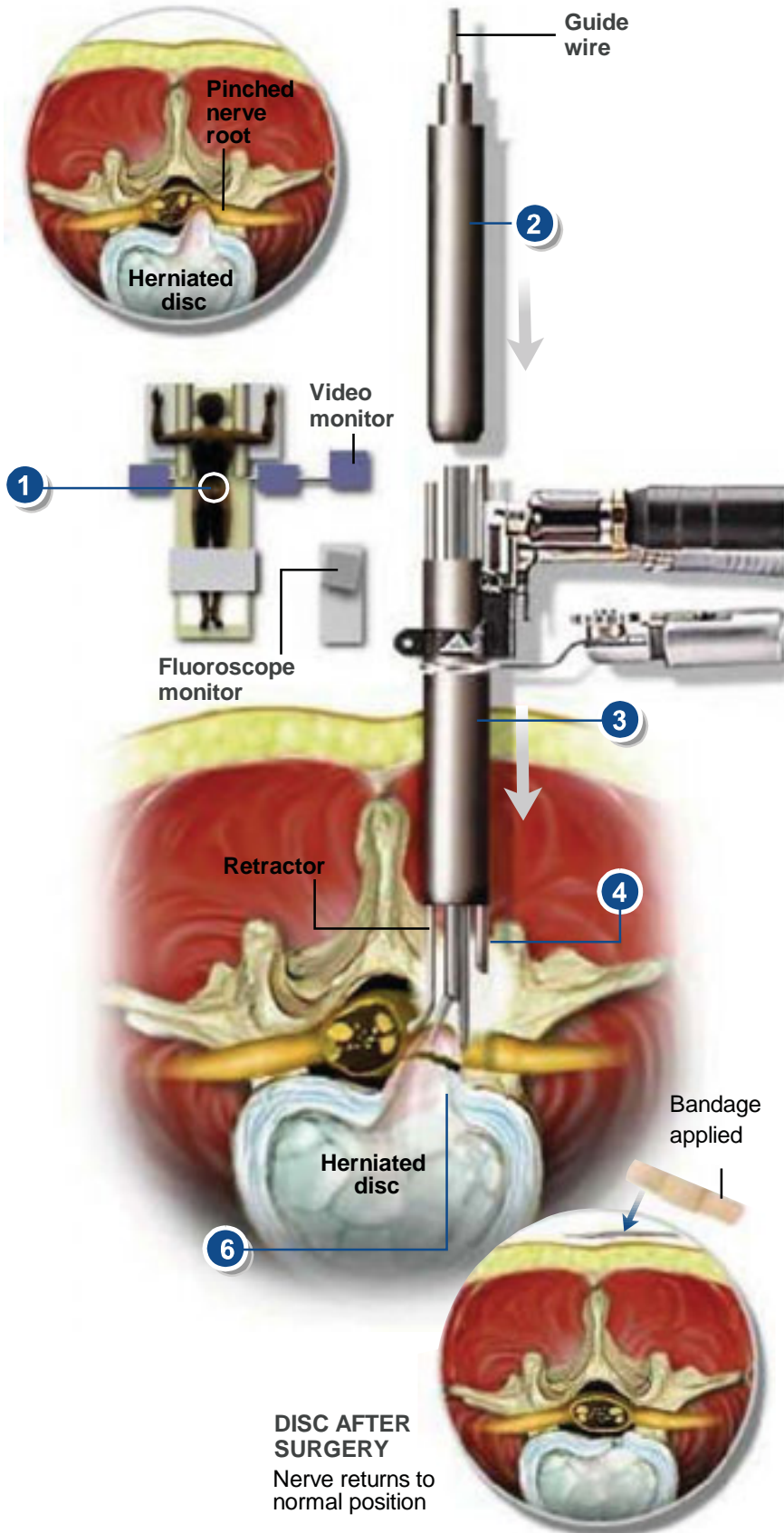




Micro Endoscopic Discectomy



Overview

This minimally-invasive procedure is performed through a tubular device. It is designed to relieve pain caused by herniated discs pressing on nerve roots. This surgery is usually performed on an outpatient basis, which allows the patient to leave the hospital the same day.

Guide Wire Inserted

A guide wire is inserted through a small incision and is pushed to the affected disc level. The surgeon uses a special type of x-ray machine called a fluoroscope to ensure that the route to the herniated disc is made in the correct location.

Dilating Tubes Inserted

A series of dilating tubes are passed over the guide wire to push apart the tissue down to the vertebrae. The guide wire is then removed.

Retractor Inserted

The tubular retractor, through which the surgery will be performed, is slid over the dilating tubes. It is positioned on the bone surface. All the dilating tubes are then removed.

Instruments Inserted

A surgical light and small camera or microscope are used to see through the tube. Surgical instruments are used to clear away bone and soft tissue in order to access the spinal canal.

Spinal Nerve Moved

The surgeon uses a nerve retractor to gently move the nerve away from the herniated disc.

Herniated Portion Cleared

The herniated portion of the disc is removed and the area is cleared, which allows room for the nerve to move back to its normal position.

End of Procedure

The tubular retractor is removed, allowing the body tissue to close around the surgery area. The surface wound is closed with a small bandage.