

What Patients Are Saying

Pete Raynor: Experiencing Pain Relief with Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery

Residents of the Mid-Shore are experiencing relief for back, leg and neck pain due to the availability of minimally invasive spinal surgery performed at Memorial Hospital by neurosurgeon Khalid Kurtom, MD. Dr. Kurtom's focus on minimally invasive surgery is good news for patients who have suffered with cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine conditions.

According to Dr. Kurtom, "New technologies and training now allow physicians to perform complex brain and spinal surgeries with the aid of microscopic visualization and through minimally invasive approaches and small incisions."

Dr. Kurtom further explains that minimally invasive procedures are often preferred over more traditional surgeries because they can be done as same-day procedures or require minimal hospitalization. Recovery can be shortened by nearly 50 percent when smaller incisions are used.

"Minimally invasive surgeries require extensive skill in the use of micro instruments and microscopic visualization and detailed knowledge of the anatomy," Dr. Kurtom explains. "There is usually a steep learning curve involved in mastering these techniques."

Pete Raynor, age 69, of Sherwood is one of Dr. Kurtom's patients who experienced life-transforming outcomes with minimally invasive surgery. Raynor was facing serious spinal instability caused by a cancerous tumor that had been removed eight years earlier. Because Raynor would not have been able to tolerate potential significant blood loss, minimally invasive surgery was the only option available to him.

Dr. Kurtom performed an 11-hour minimally invasive back fusion operation to stabilize Raynor's spine. Dr. Kurtom comments, "This surgery was complex because of the extent of the fusion required. Short segment, posterior fusion operations are done with some frequency; however, fusing longer segments of spine through a minimally invasive approach with the hardware we used for Mr. Raynor is not quite as common."

Dr. Kurtom credits Shore Health System's neurosurgery team at Memorial Hospital with providing the atmosphere for a successful program. He says, "It takes a huge team effort to make this work. The surgeon may be the captain of the boat, but it's a big boat that includes office staff, pre- and post-



operative nursing staff, OR assistants and techs. Family members are also important to the patient's recovery."

Raynor comments, "Dr. Kurtom's straightforward manner and can-do attitude helped me decide to do the surgery. He conveyed to me that he knew he could be successful. It was important to me not to leave the community I love and the hospital I knew and had confidence in to have this surgery. I consider myself blessed to have such a phenomenal doctor. We live in miraculous times."

Photo: Neurosurgeon Khalid Kurtom, MD, (left) with Pete Raynor during a follow up visit to Chesapeake Neurological Services in Easton. Dr. Kurtom performed an 11-hour minimally invasive back fusion operation to stabilize Raynor's spine.