

ATLANTA HEALTHCARE PROFILES

A Passion for Compassion

Patients who have experienced the frustration of failed spinal surgeries—as well as those with chronic neck and back pain—find a skilled, empathetic champion in James L. Chappuis, MD, FACS, senior orthopedic spine surgeon, and founder of Spine Center Atlanta.

Terri Pritchard had almost given up hope of ever being free of the neck pain that had plagued her for years. A neurosurgeon near her home in northern Alabama had performed a lateral mass screw fixation to fuse three cervical vertebrae. “He said the surgery was successful; I was supposed to be cured,” says Pritchard (not her real name), a retired teacher.

Instead the pain was worse than before. “My surgeon just shrugged and sent me to a pain clinic that prescribed pills. That was unacceptable,” she says. “I didn’t want pills; I wanted my life back.”

An internet search led her to James L. Chappuis, MD, and Spine Center Atlanta. Pritchard drove three hours for an appointment and was brought to tears by the level of care she encountered. “Dr. Chappuis really listened to me,” she recalls.

“It was immediately obvious that those screws needed to come out,” says Dr. Chappuis, a 28-year orthopedic spine surgeon who has devoted his career to caring for patients who have experienced failed spinal surgeries. (He is also an adjunct faculty researcher in biomechanics at Georgia Tech and the holder of 16 patents for spine surgery implants.) “I see patients like Terri every day, people who have been told there is nothing more to be done. It’s my life’s work to help patients other physicians have given up on.”

Concierge Care

Dr. Chappuis and his team offer the latest surgical and nonsurgical



treatments for failed spine surgery syndrome, degenerative spinal stenosis (widely diagnosed among aging Baby Boomers), pinched nerves, sciatica, facet disease, herniated and degenerative discs, and more. The clinic is happy to provide second opinions and MRI reviews and to offer affordable MRI technology and convenient in-house financing for patients with inadequate health insurance. Patients from all over the country can “meet” with Dr. Chappuis and his staff via video consultation from the comfort of their own homes. “Virtual consultations are the wave of the future,” says Dr. Chappuis.

More than Just Spine

In addition to surgical spine care, Dr. Chappuis’ team now offers an array of treatments from injections in both the spine and joints by Dr. Brian Adams, an interventional pain physician, to care for shoulders, knees, and elbows with Dr. Brett Rosenberg, an extremity orthopedic surgeon. Both doctors recently joined the Spine Center team, enhancing its treatment options for patients who would like to be seen for more than just their spine.

Today, Terri Pritchard says she is pain-free and busy with retirement—and she’s Spine Center Atlanta’s

Spine Center Atlanta’s comprehensive approach to the treatment of back and neck pain includes leading-edge techniques in spinal surgery as well as nonsurgical and alternative options such as physical therapy, aqua therapy, disc distraction machines, acupuncture, and stem cell treatments. Above all, James L. Chappuis, MD, and his skilled, committed team of healthcare professionals listen to patients, acknowledge their pain, then move mountains to return them to full, active, pain-free lives.

biggest cheerleader. “I’ve never met more compassionate doctors; the entire staff at Spine Center Atlanta have been nothing but kind, informative, and supportive. I’m so grateful.”



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