

## Mayo Clinic Minute: How awake spinal surgery benefits patients

Video	Audio
	<p>Mayo Clinic is among the first in the world to perform a spinal fusion surgery called TLIF with robotic assistance and incorporating spinal anesthesia, meaning the patient is awake.</p>
	<p>"The awake robotic approach to the minimally invasive TLIF is very unique."</p>
	<p>Dr. Selby Chen, a Mayo Clinic neurosurgeon, says it's important to have an innovative mindset.</p>
<p><b>Selby Chen, M.D.</b> <b>Neurosurgery</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b></p>	<p>"With improving technology or with robotic assistance and approving anesthetic techniques, we are hopefully able to improve patient outcomes in ways that we were not able to achieve before. And with our dedication to patient care, it's important to optimize everything we do for our patients, however we see it may benefit them."</p>
	<p>Performing the surgery while the patient is still awake, eliminates the risks associated with general anesthesia, while also allowing for faster and better recovery.</p>
	<p>There are also advantages from a surgeon's perspective.</p>
	<p>"Induction of spinal anesthesia is faster than induction of general anesthesia. And so we're able to get the cases started quicker."</p>
	<p>The robotic assistance enhances the accuracy of screw placement, leading to improved safety for patients.</p>
	<p>For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.</p>