

LIMITED GLOSSARY OF MEDICAL TERMS
FOR AVERY MANSION V. CAPTAIN KIDD'S PIER
(Per Clarification #12 on NJSBF Website.)

RADICULOPATHY: An irritation of a nerve root that extends from the root along the path of a nerve. The irritation may extend over the entire length of the nerve, or only a part of the nerve.

COMPRESSION TEST, also known as SPURLING'S TEST: This is an examination procedure of the cervical spine used to detect nerve root compression which may cause radiculopathy. The test is performed by applying pressure to the patient's head and making a determination if the movement of the head causes any local or distant pain along the nerve roots being tested.

TINEL'S SIGN: This test is used to detect irritated nerve roots. It is performed by gently tapping over a nerve to see if any "tingling" or "pins and needles"- type sensations are elicited.

PHALEN'S MANEUVER: This is a way to test for carpal tunnel syndrome. The test is performed by having the patient place their hands in an unforced flexion position for at least 30 seconds. If the median nerve is entrapped (or compressed) at the wrist, this test will produce the symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome, which would generally be pain in the hand and arm with some numbness or tingling.

THECAL SAC: A membrane that creates a sheath around the spinal cord to help keep spinal fluid around the spinal cord. A compression on the thecal sac can cause nerve root irritation in the area where the compression occurs.

MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging uses powerful magnets, radio waves and computers to take detailed pictures of your body. The MRI takes different types of pictures than CT scans or X-rays because it takes views in a number of different planes and does not use any radiation.

EMG: Electromyography measures the time and manner that a nerve impulse takes to travel from two set points along a nerve. A nerve that is damaged will take longer to travel along its path, or may find a different route along a nerve to travel which may indicate a problem with that nerve.

NCV: This is a nerve conduction velocity test which measures the speed of nerve impulses.

HERNIATION: A disc herniation is a rupture of the center of a spinal disc that enters into the spinal canal and presses against the spinal cord often causing pain or other abnormal sensation due to pressure on spinal nerves.

BULGE: An abnormal protrusion of a spinal disc between vertebrae which may or may not cause pain due to pressure on spinal nerves.

NERVE ROOT IMPINGEMENT: An impingement is basically when a nerve is compressed or irritated which may cause pain, numbness or irritation. Pressure against a nerve may be natural, or traumatically induced and may be temporary or permanent in its consistency. Can be used interchangeably with Nerve Root Compression.