

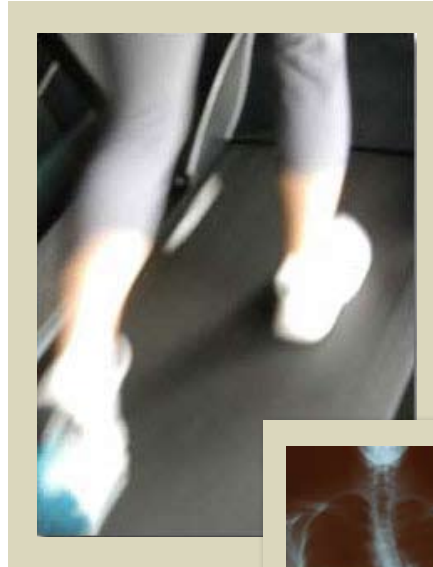
After lifelong battle with scoliosis, patient gets back to enjoying life

Sue was diagnosed with scoliosis at age 14, but the pain was never that unbearable. “When I was diagnosed with scoliosis as a teenager, I was put into a brace for a period of time,” she remembers. “But then it got better and I assumed it wouldn’t be a problem for me anymore.”

Sue’s life marched on. She got married and began her career as a preschool teacher. The back pain didn’t completely disappear, however and Sue noticed symptoms worsening, including debilitating back pain, and pain that would radiate down into her leg. “I just noticed as I got older, the pain began to get unbearable,” she says.

Sue sought treatment from Dr. Geck, and felt a comfortable connection. “I liked how he was very conservative with his recommendations,” she said. “Even though he was a surgeon he was not at all eager to jump into surgery. We really tried all of the nonsurgical options first.” Sue began her treatment plan with pain injections to bridge her into physical therapy. But after those attempts failed at relieving the pain, Dr. Geck ultimately recommended surgery.

“Dr. Geck was very thorough in making sure I was ready for surgery,” Sue recalls. “He had me call former patients about what to expect, and he sent me to a number of physicians just to make sure I was physically ready for the surgery. By the time I actually had the surgery, I knew it was the right choice for my situation and that I was capable of getting through both the surgery



and recovery.”

Recovery after the surgery involved some rehab work on her part. “You always think you are going to be that rare case that recovers faster and bounces back in a couple of weeks,” Sue says. “It’s not like that, however. Although it’s encouraging because you really do progress in leaps and bounds. One day you can’t do this and the next day you can.”

Looking back on the entire process, Sue

offers advice for those in her situation. “If you are contemplating having surgery, make sure you talk to someone who has been through it. That really helped with allay some of my fears,” she says. “SpineAustin has everything under one roof. You have a team working toward your recovery and each of them are very aware of what’s going on with your particular case.”

Getting back to normal activities that had been taken away from her due to severe back pain is something Sue is grateful for. “I am back in the gym and able to go shopping with my daughter now for hours. Before I couldn’t last more than 45 minutes,” Sue says. “I don’t feel like I have any limitations now. I truly feel like I have my world back.”



Above are Sue’s X-rays before and after surgery. Sue urges potential scoliosis surgery patients, “If you are contemplating having surgery, make sure you talk to someone who has been through it.”

Matthew J. Geck MD is a board certified, fellowship trained orthopedic surgeon who has a practice focused exclusively on spine and scoliosis surgery. Dr. Geck is referred some of the most complex cases of adult scoliosis, cervical myelopathy (spinal cord compression), and pediatric scoliosis. Dr. Geck is a member of many prestigious spine societies, and has authored numerous peer reviewed journal articles, society abstracts, and book chapters on spine and scoliosis surgery. Dr. Geck performed his undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin in the Medical Scholars program and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1992. He attended medical school at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and graduated in 1996 Alpha Omega Alpha. Dr. Geck performed his orthopedic surgery residency at the UCLA Medical Center, and was Chief Resident in 2000. To add to his adult and pediatric spine training, he elected to perform fellowships in spine surgery. He was certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2003. He performed an ACGME approved spine fellowship in adult and pediatric spine surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital. He then spent additional time at Miami Children’s Hospital focusing on complex spinal deformities such as scoliosis, kyphosis, and revision surgery for the previously operated scoliosis patient.



Matthew Geck, MD, Spine & Scoliosis Surgeon

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