

Preying on the Elderly?

Editorial Staff

While the number of spine surgeries has been on the increase, this is especially true for those 65 years and older. Consider the trend for low back surgery between 1979 and 1992:

Number of Low Back Surgeries per 100,000

	1979	1992
Adults Under 65	113	152
Adults 65 +Over	51	188

SOURCE: Ciol MA, Deyo RA, Howell E, Kreif S. An assessment of surgery for spinal stenosis: the trends, geographic variations, complications, and reoperations. J Am Geriatr Soc 44:285-290, 1996.

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