

# Patient Severity at South Carolina Spine Center

As a regional referral for back and neck pain, South Carolina Spine Center receives a far more complex patient base than other clinics.

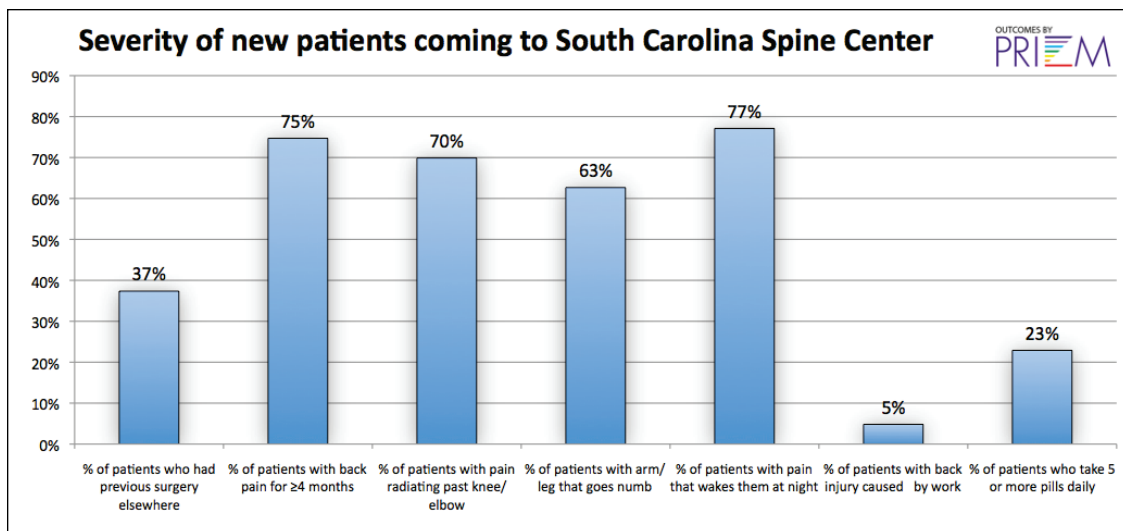
About one in three new patients (37%) walking in the front door of South Carolina Spine Center have had previous back surgery at other clinics.

Another 70% of patients have red flag symptoms like radicular pain, 63% have numbness into a leg or arm, both of which implies disc-related problems, rather than simple acute back or neck strain.

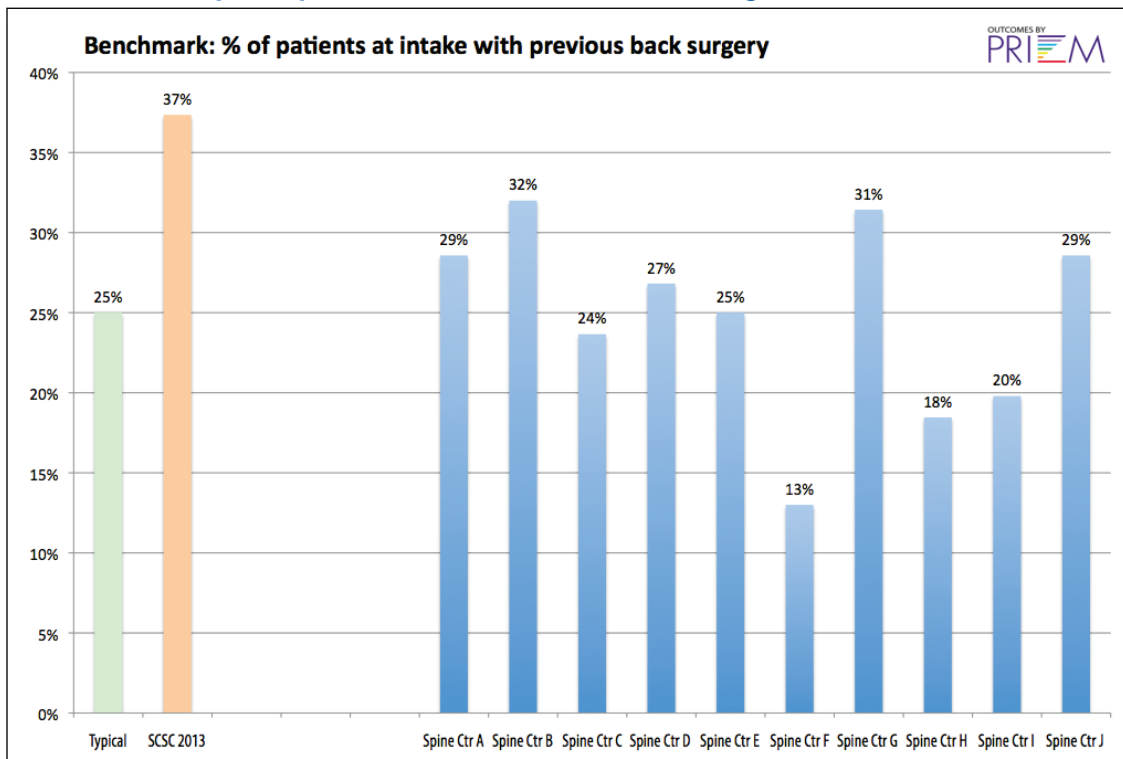
About 3 of 4 patients (75%) had back pain for 4 months or more. This severity of new patients presents a challenge for a spine center.

## ABOUT THE OUTCOMES PROCESS

New patients coming into South Carolina Spine Center completed an intake form that measured their pain level, severity of symptoms and functional status. Three months after first visit, an outside nurse, not employed by South Carolina Spine Center, calls a random sample of patients and interviews them for functional status, symptoms and patient satisfaction. This is the most unbiased method for outcomes analysis. The clinical outcomes presented here are analyzed and validated by an outside firm, Prizm Development, Inc., that specializes in tracking spine outcomes nationally, and is the most experienced entity in the nation related to spine specialty centers.



## South Carolina Spine Center is referred the most complex back & neck pain patients from across the region



Even benchmarking South Carolina Spine Center to other spine centers shows that it receives as new patients far more complex backs than even other large spine centers. The benchmark chart shows that 37% of new patients coming to South Carolina Spine Center had previous back surgery. This failed back percentage is much higher than other spine centers which average about 25% for failed back surgery patients.

Patients at South Carolina Spine Center receive a Home Remedy Book with spine exercises and a customized Home Exercise Program to prevent recurrent strain and injury. All are encouraged to exhaust non-surgical treatment options first.



## SOUTH CAROLINA SPINE CENTER

Advanced spine care services of  
**SELF REGIONAL**  
 HEALTHCARE