#### CRYSTAL CLINIC ORTHOPAEDIC CENTER



## Your Guide to Spine Health



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# There is an answer to your back pain

Have you been living with recurring back pain for years? Is it affecting the way you live your life? The spine specialists of Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center can treat your spinal conditions and allow you to live your life the way you want — without limitations.

Your painful back can be the result of:

- Fracture
- Injury
- Years of heavy lifting
- Genetics
- Traumic injuries

You may have tried multiple treatments, including physical therapy, or perhaps you've seen other doctors. Nothing is helping. If that's the case, it is time to see a Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center spine specialist. We can diagnose your condition and offer a treatment plan.



A painful spine can affect other parts of your body, and it can affect your ability to perform the simplest tasks. The goal of Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center is to make you more comfortable in what you're doing.

# Why choose Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center?

#### Experience

Higher surgical volumes typically result in better patient outcomes because of an increased familiarity with procedures and improved technique. Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center physicians perform more than 12,000 surgeries a year, more than most area hospitals. Our team of medical professionals is dedicated to orthopaedic care and uses its skill and knowledge to help patients improve their quality of life.

#### Specialization

Specialization is equally as important as experience when considering orthopaedic treatment. In addition to high volumes, Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center's sole specialization in care results in:

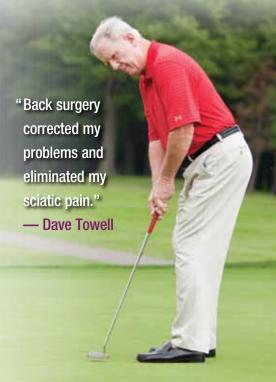
- Significantly decreased risk of infection.
- Shortened length of hospital stay.

#### **Comprehensive Services**

Our care is fully integrated from initial evaluation through surgery and rehabilitation. Members of the same specialty-trained surgical staff see patients throughout their care to ensure comfort and the best possible treatment.

#### Research & Education

Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center surgeons are active members of Summa Health System's teaching and medical education staffs. They continually work to improve upon existing procedures and technology to ensure maximum patient benefit. They also conduct research in a number of venues.



# Why choose us for your spine condition?

If you are suffering from recurring back pain, Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center's skill and expertise can give you a new lease on life.

We can treat your back pain in a variety of ways. Most often, surgery is not the first choice, and your doctor will discuss non-surgical treatment options with you.

If surgery is necessary, our spine specialists can perform complex, delicate procedures involving minimally-invasive techniques that may lead to more rapid recovery. They also perform complex reconstructions and revision spinal procedures.

We can provide you with better results, thanks to:

- Experience. Our four spine specialists are board-certified and fellowshiptrained. Together, they have more than 60 years of experience and have performed thousands of procedures.
- Specialty Care. Our nurses, physical therapists, anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists are dedicated to spine care.
- Full Service. We treat the full range of spinal conditions, including:
  - Degenerative conditions
  - Infections
  - Spinal tumors
  - Trauma

Our dedication to spine care can help produce better results for you.

Have you been living with recurring back pain for years? Is it affecting the way you live your life? The spine specialists of Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center can treat your spinal conditions and allow you to live your life the way you want—without limitations.



The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® was awarded to Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center for its compliance and dedication to the organization's national standards for healthcare quality and safety in disease-specific care.

Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center is certified in spinal fusion surgery (1 of 2 in Ohio, 1 of 16 nationally).

Achieving Joint Commission certification in spinal fusion illustrates our excellence

and continuous improvement for care we provide to the community we serve.

# Our spine specialists

To make an appointment with one of our spine specialists, call  $(855)\ 728\text{-}4660\ toll\text{-free}$ 

#### Richard S. Brower, M.D.



Dr. Brower specializes in spine surgery and is certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery. He is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of

Scranton and an award-winning graduate of Hahnemann University College of Medicine. His honors include Medical Student Teaching Award and Attending Teacher of the Year Award from Summa Akron City Hospital. He is a member of several professional societies including the Cervical Spine Research Society. His expertise is in the treatment of degenerative and traumatic conditions in all areas of the spine, with specialization in conditions of the cervical spine and minimally invasive approaches to the lumbar spine. He has conducted many research presentations and written many research articles on orthopaedic conditions, including the spine. He is a recipient of the prestigious Volvo Award in 1997 for clinical research involving the lumbar spine. He has been a physician since 1985. Dr. Brower sees patients at North Coast (Akron).

#### Douglas M. Ehrler, M.D.



Dr. Ehrler is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of John Carroll University and a graduate of Wright State University's School of Medicine, where he earned several academic

awards, including election to Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honorary Society. He completed his spine fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. His practice incorporates adult spinal reconstruction, including the diagnosis, treatment and surgical correction of adult spinal disorders, cervical (neck), thoracic (mid-back) and lumbar (lower back). He also covers trauma. Dr. Ehrler utilizes all surgical techniques ranging from microsurgical procedures to cervical and lumbar total disc replacement to advanced multi-stage spinal column reconstruction. He is a member of a number of spine and orthopaedic professional societies, and has earned several awards. He is principal investigator for an FDA trial involving cervical disc replacement. Dr. Ehrler has been a physician since 1993. Dr. Ehrler sees patients at Montrose and Kent.



Scot D. Miller, D.O.



Dr. Miller is a graduate of the University of Iowa and an award-winning graduate of the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences.
Dr. Miller completed

his residency at The University Hospitals of Cleveland and Case Western Reserve University, and then his spinal fellowship in San Francisco at the SpineCare Institute and Stanford University Medical Center. Dr. Miller's area of interests include spinal microsurgery and minimally invasive surgery of the spine, cervical and lumbar spinal disorders, scoliosis and spinal trauma. He has presented to national medical and scientific societies, is involved in ongoing research, and serves as scientific consultant to several spinal implant companies. Dr. Miller is an associate professor of orthopaedic surgery at Northeast Ohio Medical University. He is an associate editor and medical contributor to The Spine Journal, the Spine Arthroplasty Society Journal, as well as SpineLine, the North American Spine Society journal. He has been a physician since 1981. Dr. Miller sees patients at Montrose and Stow.

Rajiv V. Taliwal, M.D.



Dr. Taliwal specializes in the evaluation and management of adult spinal disorders and surgery, including disorders of the cervical spine. He also covers

trauma. He received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, where he earned the Phi Beta Kappa award. He received his medical degree from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where he earned the Alpha Omega Alpha award. He completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. The Delaware Valley Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center at Thomas Jefferson is one of the largest referral programs for spinal injury in the country. Dr. Taliwal is a member of many medical societies, including the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. He has authored numerous publications and remains active in research and education. He has been a physician since 1995. Dr. Taliwal sees at patients at North Coast (Akron) and Medina.

## Frequently Asked Questions

"I'm walking thanks to my spine surgeon. I'm back to normal. I'm working full time, driving and fishing again. Dr. Miller is a miracle worker!"

- Justin Wigington

How can I determine whether or not I have significant back pain to see a specialist?

The answer to this question is easy: The patient decides. The patient determines how severe the back pain is, and how it is affecting his or her lifestyle. If your back only hurts when you shovel, for example, the solution is simple: turn that chore over to someone else. But if your back hurts when you get up in the morning, when you bend over the sink when brushing your teeth, when you sit at work, and forces you to lie on the floor for relief — that is significant back pain.

#### What is a fusion?

A fusion welds (fuses) two or more vertebrae together using bone graft. It keeps the vertebrae in place and takes away the pain. Sometimes, metal rods and screws are used in addition to the bone. The hardware helps to stabilize the area where the fusion is to form. Hardware may also be used to correct deformity resulting from a fracture, tumor or scoliosis.



Will I lose the ability to bend over as a result of a fusion?

A fusion rarely results in lost movement in the back for a number of reasons. Not all of the vertebrae will be fused together, and movement will still occur at the other non-fused levels. Most of the ability to bend at the waist actually occurs at the

hip joint.

My neck is getting sore. Is that a sign of a spinal condition?

The neck is the portion of the spine between the base of the skull and shoulders. As we get older, our discs wear out. The wearing out of discs in the neck results in loss of the cushioning effect for the vertebrae. When a vertebra moves on a worn out disc (such as when looking over your shoulder), it may cause neck pain.

What does it mean to have neck pain, along with pain in both arms and some leg symptoms? This is a collection of symptoms more likely to occur in individuals age 60 or older. The neck discomfort has usually been present for a number of years and the arm symptoms, subtle at first, become so significant that you cannot open a jar and may have difficulty with other daily tasks.



Various leg symptoms appear such as stiffness in gait and even a lack of steadiness. These symptoms will worsen over time. You may become unable to use your hands and have difficulty walking. In this situation, surgery may be necessary to stop the worsening of the symptoms.

Does Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center have the experience and expertise to handle spinal trauma cases?

Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center is one of the leading facilities in the country for trauma care. We have four board-certified, fellowship-trained spinal surgeons, each with specialty training in techniques to handle spinal trauma cases. It's not uncommon for any of our surgeons to see between six and 12 spinal trauma operative cases in a month. That large volume of cases is important for trauma care. We believe prompt attention, meticulous detail and being there for the patient is important.

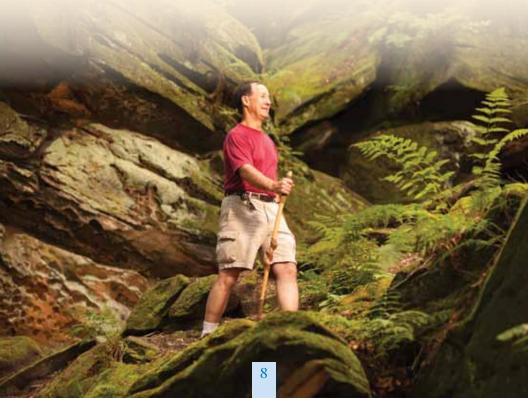
## Frequently Asked Questions

#### Should I have surgery?

We don't try to talk our patients into having surgery. Surgery becomes appropriate when you feel that your problem is not livable. Surgery is meant to take the unlivable and make it livable.

"I lived with back pain for about 10 years, and it was beginning to affect my legs and feet. It became difficult to climb stairs and even walk. Something as simple as tying my shoes became an impossible task. Within a few weeks after surgery, I was able to walk two flights of stairs with no pain or hesitation. I can participate in all the activities I want without limitations."

- Ron Tatlock



#### Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center Locations

Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center has convenient locations throughout Summit, Medina and Portage counties

#### **MONTROSE**

3975 Embassy Parkway Suite 102 Akron, Ohio 44333

#### **Surgery Center**

3975 Embassy Parkway Suite 202 Akron, Ohio 44333

#### **Summit Hand Center**

3925 Embassy Parkway Suite 200 Akron, OH 44333

#### Crystal Plastic Surgeons

3925 Embassy Parkway Suite 300 Akron, OH 44333

#### **AKRON**

#### North Coast

20 Olive Street Suite 200 Akron, Ohio 44310

#### Summa

St. Thomas Hospital

444 N. Main Street Akron, Ohio 44310

#### BARBERTON

72 Fifth Street SE Suite A Barberton, Ohio 44203

#### **CUYAHOGA FALLS**

437 Portage Trail Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

#### **GREEN**

2818 S. Arlington Road Akron, Ohio 44312

#### **HUDSON**

1310 Corporate Drive Hudson, Ohio 44236

#### **KENT**

2007 State Route 59 Kent, Ohio 44240

#### **MEDINA**

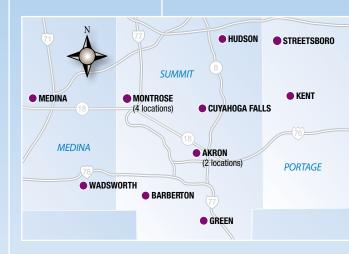
4975 Foote Road Suite 100 Medina, Ohio 44256

#### **STREETSBORO**

9318 State Route 14 Streetsboro, Ohio 44241

#### **WADSWORTH**

323 High Street, Suite C Wadsworth, Ohio 44281



To make an appointment, call  $(855)\ 728\text{-}4660\ toll\mbox{-}free$ 

