



For Immediate Release

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YOUNG WRESTLER GETS A SECOND CHANCE WITH MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINE PROCEDURE

AURORA, CO (March 1, 2021). Samuel Deseriere (Sammy) is a 22 year old senior in college at Western Colorado University in Gunnison. He has been wrestling for years and has had his share of the usual injuries, aches and pains that come with the sport. “This last time, I literally heard something in my back pop,” says Sammy. I completely lost sensation in my leg. It was pretty scary.”

After conferring with two different spine surgeons, he saw Neurosurgeon, Peter Witt, an Associate Professor and Director of the Neurosurgical Spine Service in the Department of Neurosurgery at Anschutz Medical Center. “Dr. Witt was the only doctor who offered a minimally invasive procedure. Other surgeons told me I would have at least a three month recovery, but Dr. Witt told me I could potentially be back on my feet in 4 to 6 weeks. He was right. It was a no brainer!”

Sammy had a herniated disc at L4-5 with nerve compression/radiculopathy—left foot weakness— and had a “full endoscopic” microdiscectomy. “Radiculopathy is a way to describe a range of symptoms (pain /weakness) caused by pinching/compression of the nerve root. In this case, it was the L5 nerve root caused by a disc herniation at L4-5,” states Physician Assistant, Lawrence Cloutier, Instructor and Clinician in the Spine Clinic at CU Anschutz . “This minimally invasive, endoscopic surgery was offered because the patient is a larger individual and a traditional open surgical approach would have involved a good amount of tissue dissection and a larger opening. The endoscopic approach allowed us do the same bulging disc removal surgery through a one inch opening.”

As with many patients, Sammy had less blood loss and is experiencing a faster recovery. “It’s only been a couple of weeks, and I’m back to doing lots of my usual activities, I have good sensation in my leg, and I hope to be wrestling next fall again!”

To learn more about minimally invasive procedures offered by Neurosurgeons at the University of Colorado, visit our website at:

<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/neurosurgery>



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