

Will I need more tests prior to surgery? In Ithaca?
At Memorial? When? In-patient or out?

Within 24 hr of surgery I need to have a balloon angiogram of the vertebral arteries, to be done at NY Hospital (across the street).

Within a week of surgery I need final "blood work". This should be done in conjunction with meeting the other surgeons:

Boyle or Krauss for the anterior neck

Boland as the orthopedist to help bolt on the metal

Baines or Flores if we need a thoracic surgeon.

Darren will work on setting this up, knowing we need a week's notice; this will be a full day there.

How far prior to surgery do I need to be admitted at Memorial?

This should be right after the balloon test at NYHosp.

What about disks? How is the metal implant measured?

The disks between C4/5, C5/6, C6/7 are all removed, so that the vertebral bodies of C4 and C7 sit flush against the metal implant.

The implant is cut while I am in surgery!

After the 5+ days of recovery should I plan on getting back to Ithaca by air or by car? *Either.*

How long after surgery until I can get out of bed?
Hopefully the next day.

Work at a computer? *Hopefully the day after that.*

Do house chores? *Light chores soon; heavy in ~6wks*

Get out of the house? *ASAP*

Drive a car? *Probably 2 months*

Concerning the 6-8 weeks hard cervical collar, what does one do about hygiene and showering, neck muscle atrophy, suture removal?

There are several types of collars I will be given. Biggest issue in showering/bathing is to avoid falls. After ~2 wks I start being weaned from the collar, first 2 hr/day, then 4 hr/day, etc.

Any word on the lesions in my lungs?

None yet ... will look this afternoon.

Date? *Wednesday, 27 October !!*