

Gunshot wounds to the spine

Indications for surgery

1. injury to the cauda equina (whether complete or incomplete) if nerve root compression is demonstrated ¹⁾.
2. neurologic deterioration: suggesting the possibility of [spinal epidural hematoma](#)
3. compression of a nerve root
4. Cerebrospinal fluid fistula
5. spinal instability: very rare with isolated GSW to the spine

¹⁾
Robertson DP, Simpson RK. Penetrating Injuries Restricted to the Cauda Equina: A Retrospective Review. Neurosurgery. 1992; 31:265-270

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