

Besides open [discectomy](#), other interventional techniques were developed to overcome the side effects of surgical procedures.

In [1964](#) the American orthopedic surgeon Lyman Smith (1912-1991) introduced [chemonucleolysis](#), a minimally invasive technique consisting only of a cannula and the proteolytic enzyme [chymopapain](#), which is injected into the disc compartment to dissolve the displaced disc material.

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