

Could there be a problem with my SI Joint?

The Sacroiliac (SI) joint is located at the base of the spine and connects the tailbone to the pelvis. This joint can become disrupted or damaged either due to injury or normal wear and tear. The terms used to describe these conditions are SI joint disruption and dysfunction. When this happens, it can cause pain and discomfort from the lower back down to the lower buttock region and the upper leg.

According to published scientific literature, it's common for SI joint problems to mimic disc or low back pain.¹ This makes diagnosing SI joint problems difficult as lower back pain has many causes. In fact, many patients with disabling low back pain go on to receive lumbar spinal treatments, though the source of their symptoms may be the SI joint, either whole or in part.

The good news is that your surgeon can now distinguish between the low back pain symptoms arising from the lumbar portion of the spine and a symptomatic SI joint. There are several treatment options for the SI joint that can be considered, including minimally invasive SI joint fixation/fusion. Speak to your doctor about your treatment options.

For more information
please contact us at
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SI-BONE | **iFuse** Implant System.
Minimally Invasive Sacroiliac Joint Surgery

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Sacroiliac Joint Problems



Ask your doctor
about new diagnostic
and treatment options.

¹ Weksler, Velan, et al. The role of SI joint dysfunction in the genesis of low back pain: the obvious is not always right. Archives of ortho and trauma surgery. 2007 Dec; 10(127) 858-8.

Do you have SI Joint Problems?

Like any other joint in the body, the SI joint can become damaged or its support ligaments can become loose or injured. When this happens, people can feel problems in their upper leg(s), buttock and sometimes even higher on the axial skeleton. This is especially true with sitting, lifting, running, walking or even sleeping on the involved side. In all of these cases, the symptoms can be felt anywhere from the upper leg to the lower spine.

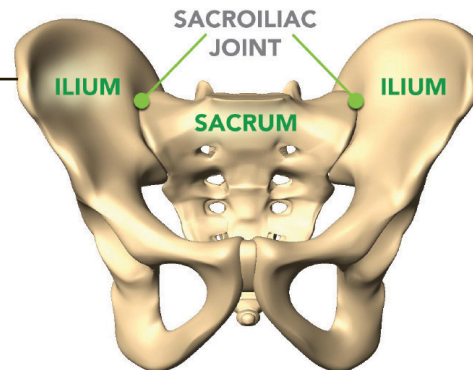


It is important to note that on occasion, patients who have not experienced symptomatic relief from lumbar spine surgery may

actually have had SI joint problems to begin with or have problems with the spine and SI joint. In addition, patients who have had prior surgery may now have adjunct issues with their SI joint.

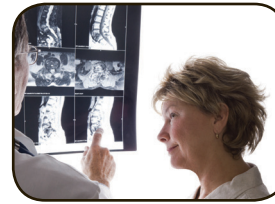
Sacroiliac Joint Anatomy

The Sacroiliac joint (SI joint) is located in the pelvis; it links the iliac bones (pelvis) to the sacrum (lowest part of the spine above the tailbone). It is an essential component for shock absorption to prevent impact forces during walking from reaching the spine.



Making a Diagnosis

A variety of tests performed during physical examination may help reveal the SI joint as the cause of your symptoms. In addition, X-rays, CT-scan or MRI can be helpful in the diagnosis of SI joint-related problems. It is also important to remember that more than one condition (like a disc problem) can co-exist with SI joint problems.



The most relied upon method to accurately determine whether the SI joint is the cause of your low back pain symptoms is to inject the SI joint with a local anesthetic. Your surgeon will deliver the injection with either fluoroscopic or CT guidance to verify accurate placement of the needle in the SI joint. If your symptoms are decreased by a minimum of 75%, it can be concluded that the SI joint is either the source, or a major contributor, to your low back pain. If the level of symptomology does not change after SI joint injection, it is less likely that the SI joint is the cause of your low back pain.

Treatment Options

Once the SI joint is confirmed as the cause of your symptoms, treatment can begin. Some patients respond to physical therapy, chiropractic manipulations, use of oral medications, as well as injection therapy. Intermittent use of a pelvic belt may provide symptomatic relief as well. These treatments are performed repetitively and frequently symptom improvement using these therapies is temporary. At this point, you and your surgeon may consider other options, including surgery.

SI Joint Fixation/Fusion with the iFuse Implant System®



A minimally invasive surgical option for SI joint fixation/fusion is the iFuse Implant System. The procedure typically involves three

small titanium implants surgically inserted across the SI joint, and is designed to create a durable construct to stabilize the SI joint. The procedure is done through a small incision and takes about an hour.

