



# Holladay Physical Medicine

4211 Holladay Blvd. – Holladay, UT 84124 – (801) 272-8471

Bruce Gundersen, D.C.,DIANM

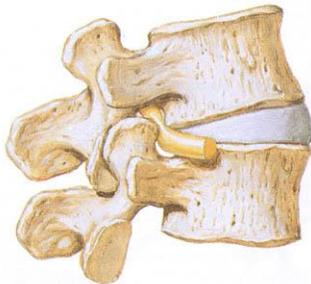
[www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com](http://www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com)

## Posterior Joint Syndrome (Facet Syndrome)

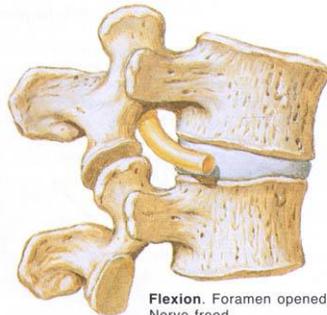
This Information is general about the condition and pertains you your condition in general. Every individual has a unique presentation. Once you understand this information, consult the doctor on any specific questions to your condition.

Posterior Joint Syndrome is primarily a mechanical disorder of the joints of the lower back and is characterized by the dull ache and pain in the lower back that does not generally radiate down past the knee. Pain is usually increased when moving from sitting to standing and aggravated by stomach sleeping or hyper extension movements. The condition is often seen in two forms, the stable which is far more common and the unstable which although not as common, is far more difficult to treat. The stable condition left untreated often progresses to the unstable form.

Effects of Lumbar Hyperlordosis and Flexion on Spinal Nerve Roots



**Hyperlordosis.** Foramen narrowed by superior articular process of lower vertebra. Nerve compressed



**Flexion.** Foramen opened. Nerve freed

Note the extension malposition on the left as it compresses the disc and compromises the nerve roots. Often pain in the leg above the knee can be caused by this mechanical condition. Left untreated, the symptoms will likely subside but the compression will continue and cause further damage and insult with the next episode of back pain.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The posterior joint syndrome is very common in today's population. The increasing amount

of time spent in car seats and at the desk in front of the computer lend to increased dysfunction of the lower back joints. Proper sitting techniques help reduce the frequency and intensity of pain. This is usually the first step in the progression of low back pain. If left untreated, this common problem gives rise to disc problems that are far more difficult to treat and tend to progress to radicular pain in the legs. When treated properly, the mechanical dysfunction is restored and the muscular components strengthened to prevent regular recurrence.

### **TREATMENT**

This is a simple condition that occurs quite often in present day society. A course of manipulation relieves the compression and restores normal spinal alignment. In as little as two weeks of treatment, normal alignment can be achieved. Many times, however, it takes several months of life style changes, exercises and follow-up manipulation to insure the mechanical change is realized on a permanent basis.

Treatment frequency is usually daily for 3-7 days and then three times a week for 3-6 weeks. After that, realignment of the vertebra must be performed to prevent eventual return of this condition. It can be

accomplished in 30-60 days of reduced frequency management. Often once a week treatment is sufficient at that point to restore alignment. Thereafter, this condition can be reasonably avoided with monthly correction of spinal alignment.

After the first few days of treatment, you will be given a sheet of stretching exercises to do at home. This is to help reduce the treatment time and speed healing. It is very important for you to do these daily as prescribed. If you have any questions about them or difficulty or pain on performing them, please tell the doctor right away.

Several days following the initiation of treatment, more aggressive exercise routines will be proscribed for you. You will be taken to the rehabilitation center and instructed on how to use the computer monitored exercise routines specifically designed for this condition. The routines are monitored for completion and graduated in difficulty after certain numbers of routines have been completed. You will be expected to perform these routines after treatment during the initial part of the restorative phase and throughout the rehabilitative phase of your treatment. Our goal is to help you get well and stay well. We know from experience that most mechanical conditions return gradually over a period of months and become more advanced each time. The only way this can be prevented is with exercise. We expect you to be successful.

We offer treatment of these conditions at various levels for all patients. We expect that you will follow this treatment plan through to its logical conclusion of restoration of complete function and rehabilitation. Our management system is designed to help you remember all of your appointments and to be fully compliant with all of our recommendations. At any time, should you decide to discontinue the process, please just let us know so that we don't become a bother.

### **LIFE STYLE CHANGES:**

Long periods of sitting should be interrupted by standing and stretching. Do not sleep or lie on your stomach and avoid activities that hyper extend the lower back.

### **USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

We do not prescribe drugs nor recommend their use if harmful side-effects are associated with your complaints. We also do not, in any case, recommend changes in the use of prescription drugs that a licensed physician has given you. If you believe alterations in those prescriptions are in the best interest of your health, always consult with the prescribing physician before making any changes.

### **NUTRITION AND SUPPLEMENTATION:**

The ideal situation for nutrition in any injury or disease is first to eat whole foods, and to avoid processed foods, fast foods preservatives, refined carbohydrates and sugar. We have much information on our web page under Absolute Health Clinic. The physical medicine modalities we will provide you will help reduce the symptoms in the time we have projected. If you want to heal, this step is something you will need to take.

Nowadays, even if you do all of those things, you need to realize that our food supply has been gradually depleted. The pure ingredients needed to maintain body function, metabolism and immunity have been drastically reduced. We recommend only whole food supplements. Studies are clear that synthetic vitamins and mineral supplements are not only not helpful to the body in most cases, but can be toxic. Don't expect them to take the place of what we recommend here. They will not help you sufficiently to heal properly. The following list has been prioritized to help you gradually begin to supplement your improved diet and provide your body with the ingredients it needs to restore or improve your immune response and then provide the raw materials in usable form to repair the damaged or diseased tissue. The degree to which you can

implement these items will largely determine how fast you recover and more importantly whether or not you have a recurrence or relapse of the symptoms again soon.

These products are all produced by Standard Process. You may obtain them on line from Amazon or other distributors if you like or we can order them for you and save you an average of \$5 per bottle plus you can avoid shipping charges.

### **GENERAL DAILY SUPPLEMENTS**

- Catalyn
- Tuna Omega-3 oil
- Calcium Lactate
- Trace Minerals B12
- Cataplex D
- Prolamine Iodine

### **SPECIFIC FOR THIS CONDITION**

- Biost
- Glucosamine Sulphate
- Ligaplex II
- Calcifood

Specific dosages will be provided by the doctor.

We have many other specific items for a variety of health deficient conditions. Consult our web page or ask the doctor.

### **HOME REMEDIES AND MEDICINES**

After the first 1-3 days when you should be using 5-8 minutes of cold packs, utilize moist heat packs on a daily basis during the first phase of treatment. 15 minutes is the maximum therapeutic dose for heat in this condition. The application may be repeated with at least 15 minutes of non-heat rest in between. This will help relax tight muscle fibers and bring blood to the region. Hot tubs and baths with Epsom salts provide temporary relief.

The use of over-the-counter medications for pain and inflammation may be seen as necessary at first depending on your pain level and tolerance. Understand that we depend on your natural immune response to function well in order to heal this disorder. Some pain relievers and most anti-inflammatory medications shut off the inflammatory response which is what triggers your body's immune response mechanisms. If you need pain medicines of any kind to continue to function or to be able to do the exercise routines we have recommended, use good judgement in when you use them. We strongly suggest you consider ice packs for 5-10 minutes for pain relief and mechanical positioning of the injured areas to relive pressure and pain. The more you are able to do these procedures and avoid medications, the faster your immune response will be effective and the sooner you will be out of pain and begin healing. The sooner you can stop taking pain medication, the better it will be for your healing.

### **EXERCISES:**

Exercises should be specific, performed at the right time and in a particular order. They should be simple and aimed at pain relief and stabilization at first. Seek advice from your chiropractic physician on when to do these exercises and how often. When performed correctly, rehabilitation exercises can be the key to avoiding multiple episodes of pain and maintaining the function of the muscles and joints.

Our goal here is to have you begin exercises as soon as the joint mobility has been restored sufficiently. Consistent and proper exercise rehabilitation will shorten your treatment time and help reduce recurrence of the same disorder.

We offer a video training featuring exercises specifically designed and proven effective if properly performed for the rehabilitation of this condition. These video files are available on our web page at [www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com](http://www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com) ---follow that link, then the exercise pulldown menu at the top center of the home page, choose therapeutic and then scroll down to:

Low back facet

and perform them daily as soon as you can work it into your schedule. Along with the physical medicine we have recommended, it is the regular performance of these exercises that will get you well and keep you well.

## **MAINTENANCE:**

Regular spinal adjustments are important to reduce the symptoms of posterior joint syndrome. Patients who receive monthly spinal manipulation and therapy report fewer complications with posterior joint syndrome. It is important that you follow your physician's advice about the frequency of treatment for your particular condition.

## **Expectations**

We understand that you have come here for help. We have spent many years learning the best ways to solve the problems of mechanical back and neck pain. We expect you to comply with our recommendations and follow our treatment schedule completely regardless of the treatment plan you have. We expect you to set all of the recommended appointments at times convenient for you and we expect you to keep all of them. We expect you to respond favorably and know that your 100% compliance is the determining factor. We also expect you to attend our next class on Absolute Spinal Health. The staff can give you a schedule of the next class.

## **Other Information**

We offer a wide variety of health information at our web site. [www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com](http://www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com) All patients are welcome to use our information to improve your life and maintain your spinal health.

This information is provided to you as a health service by Dr. Bruce Gundersen, DC, DIANM. He is board certified by the International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and currently serves as chairman of the examination board for the Academy. He is also the President of the Utah College of Chiropractic Orthopedists and clinical director and chief clinician at Holladay Physical Medicine. He has practiced physical and regenerative medicine for over 40 years.