

# Management of Back Pain in Patients with Previous Back Surgery

The American Journal of Medicine

April 2008 Volume 121, Issue 4, Pages 272–278

Patients who have chronic, disabling lower back pain after one or more spinal surgeries are said to have failed back surgery syndrome.<sup>6</sup> If these estimates are correct, there may be over **80,000 “failed” back surgeries per year**. Success rates fall to around **30%** after a second back surgery, **15%** after the third, and to **5%** after the fourth surgery.<sup>1</sup> Often, internists are asked for advice by these challenging patients but are unfamiliar with the conditions leading to back surgery, the types of back surgery, and the best approaches to diagnosis and management.