

My Thoracic Spinal Fusion Story

My name is Patrick Cimino, I am a building maintenance worker by trade. My history with Dr. Fabien Bitan began in February 2012. I had suffered with low back pain and reoccurring herniations for 30 years. The last three years it had spread up through my thoracic spine. I had been receiving treatment including therapy and injections but my condition continued to get worse. I was advised by 2 other spine surgeons that my spine was damaged from L5 to C6 (a mess they said). I was you could say at the end of my rope living with excruciating back pain for too many years when I came upon Dr. Bitan's website. I contacted his office and within 2 days came in to see Dr. Bitan. From that first visit I knew I had gotten very lucky. Dr. Bitan made me feel very comfortable and at ease. We discussed my options and my history. He explained all the details and risks. I made the decision along with Dr. Bitan that 2 level fusion was my best option. From that moment on I was treated with the upmost care and kindness from all his staff at Manhattan Orthopaedics. I cannot tell you what a pleasure it has been to be involved with such kind and compassionate people. One of the most unusual things about my spine problem was that it was causing abdominal pain. After some pre-surgical testing this was confirmed. My first surgery an anterior fusion was April 17, 2012. When I awoke after the surgery there was doctor Bitan advising me on what happened and telling me that because my spine was so weak I would need another surgery (posterior fusion) the next week. I had my second procedure April 24, 2012, when I woke up there was Dr. Bitan again. Now 5 weeks later I consider myself a very lucky person that I was able to find such a knowledgeable, kind, and caring professional and staff to trust my care to. I am not much of a writer and wish I could relay how wonderful I feel, but I leave that to the professionals. I consider Dr. Bitan and his staff not only my doctor and caregivers but I consider them friends. In closing, spinal fusion surgery was not a pleasant experience but Dr. Bitan and his staff made it as pleasant as it could ever be.