

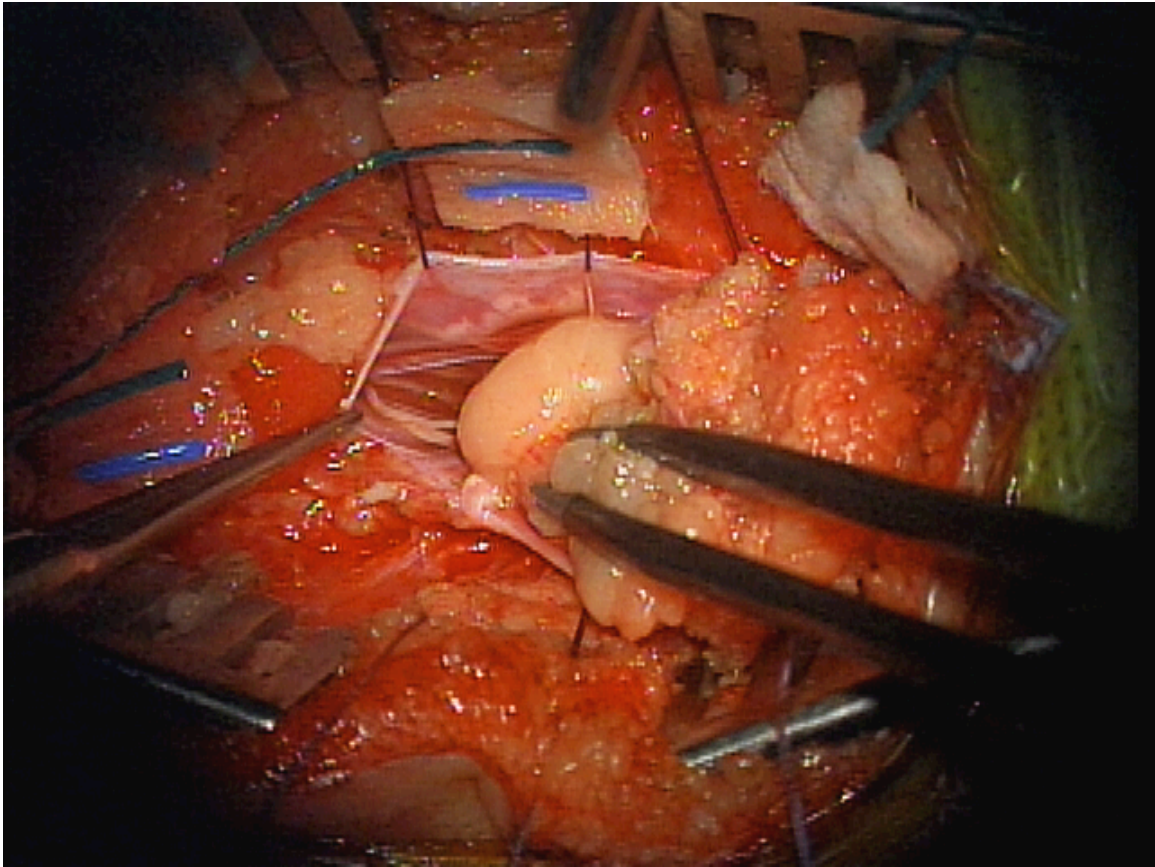
TETHERED SPINAL CORD

There are many causes of tethered spinal cords. Open defects are called spina bifida or myelomeningocele. Closed or skin-covered tethering is called spina bifida occulta. Abnormal fat attached to the spinal cord is called a lipoma or lipomyelomeningocele. A child may simply have a low cord (the tip of the cord is called the conus) or excess fat in the band of tissue that attaches the cord to the end of the spinal canal (fatty filum terminale).

Our neurosurgery team, working closely with our Spina Bifida Program, Urologists, Orthopedic surgeons, and therapists will make recommendations and tailor a surgical plan specific to your child's condition and symptoms. In the operating room, we have the latest technology – lasers, ultrasonic suction devices, and neuro-monitoring equipment to make surgery safe and effective.



The spinal cord ends abnormally low in tethered cord syndrome (spinal cord ends at the small arrow, should normally end at the larger arrow)



A lipoma (abnormal fatty tissue) being removed from the lumbar spine