

The McKenzie Method® of Mechanical
Diagnosis and Therapy® (MDT)



The Road to Recovery Starts Here

BACK ■ NECK ■ EXTREMITIES

Active Examination, Dynamic Diagnosis and Reliable Intervention
See how the McKenzie Method relieves back, neck and extremity pain!

Why the McKenzie Method?

Imagine you have the power to control your pain and the ability to do your work and daily activities. Save time and money with the McKenzie Method. Free yourself from excessive therapy sessions, expensive equipment/testing and, most importantly, surgery!

Why MDT Is the Best First Step

The McKenzie Method is your road map leading to a clear and reliable direction for intervention.

MDT is a comprehensive, evidence-based clinical examination and diagnostic management system of patient care. The examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention and prevention strategies for back, neck and extremity problems are aimed at patient education and independence. It is time- and cost-efficient and does not rely on expensive tests or procedures.

How It Works

Certified MDT clinicians are highly trained to determine if there is a “mechanical” reason for the problem. If your symptoms are affected by a change in movement or position, there is a likely mechanical cause that will respond very well to exercise-based plans of care designed to ultimately give you the ability to self-manage.

By learning how to self-treat your current impairment, you gain valuable knowledge and skills to minimize the risk of recurrence.

Through sound clinical reasoning, a certified MDT provider can also safely identify any “red flags” that might be contrary to exercise-based intervention (e.g. fracture, tumor, infections or systemic inflammatory disease) and direct patients to the appropriate plan of care.

McKenzie Evaluation/Diagnosis

Following a thorough examination and evaluation that consist of taking a patient history and performing a standardized physical exam, the patient will typically be classified into one of three McKenzie syndromes that help to further guide the best treatment strategy described as:

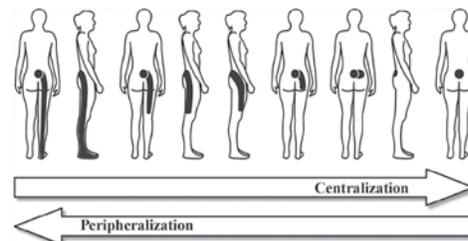
- **Postural syndrome** – pain caused by continued stress on soft tissues while maintaining certain postures or positions.
- **Derangement syndrome** – pain caused by a mechanical obstruction to an affected joint.
- **Dysfunction syndrome** – pain caused by structurally impaired soft tissues often resulting from trauma, inflammation or degenerative processes.

Two Essential Findings with the McKenzie Method

Reliability of evaluation by well-trained MDT clinicians is well documented and validated in research.

When Centralization and Directional Preference are identified, there is a very high likelihood of successful treatment results and lasting effects.

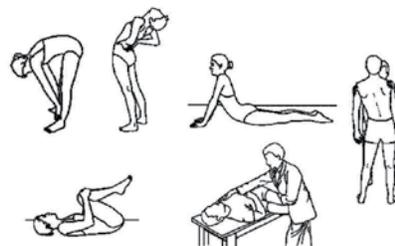
Centralization



Through the repeated movement testing during an MDT intervention, pain from the extremities (leg or arm) moves up into the center of the back (or neck).

Directional Preference – Does it matter which exercise? YES!

When the specific direction of repeated movement and/or sustained position during the intervention process results in lasting improvement in symptoms or function, that spells success! When necessary, MDT clinicians are also highly skilled in manual techniques to assist patients to gain the full capacity of the movement.



MDT provides active, not passive, plans of care that lead to more effective management.

Take control of your pain, empower yourself and get back to the life you love!

 **Find a Provider**

mckenzieinstituteusa.org