

## Patient Success Story: Taylor's Mini Scoliosis Surgery

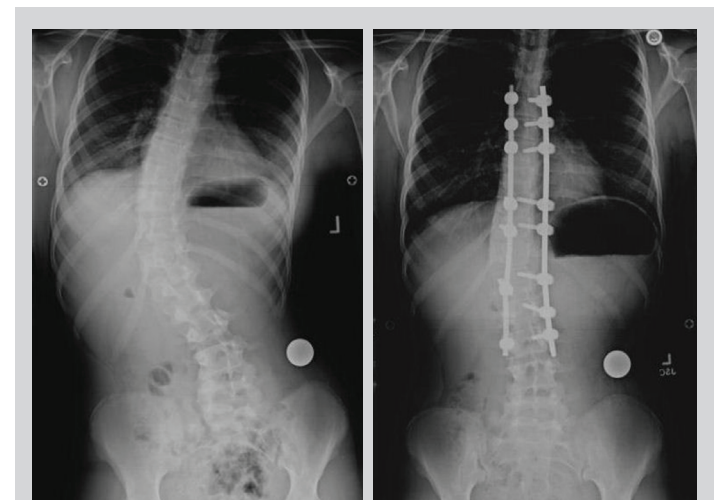
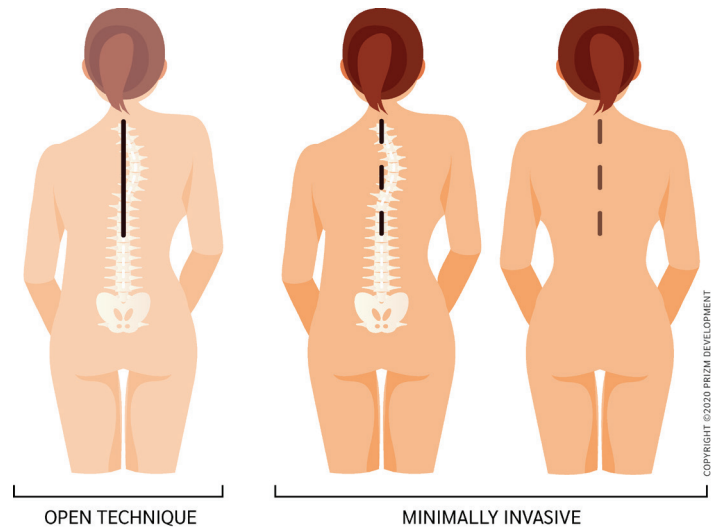
**TAYLOR** was diagnosed with scoliosis at age 12 during a school exam. Her parents, Angela and Harry, took her to an orthopedic doctor near their Houston home. While at the appointment, X-rays revealed a 19° spinal curve. The doctor fitted Taylor with a Boston Brace to stop the curve progression.

She wore the brace for eight months. "When I was in the Boston Brace, I became sort of the 'brace girl' I guess," remembers Taylor. "I would have to wear baggy clothes over the brace so no one would know."

She didn't let scoliosis interfere with an active life, though. She

continued cheerleading and horseback riding. Unfortunately, Taylor's curve continued to worsen during bracing — follow-up X-rays revealed a 32° curve. Taylor also tried physical therapy for several months, but therapy didn't stop the progression either.

Next, Taylor and her parents were referred to another Houston orthopedic surgeon who talked with them about traditional scoliosis surgical options. Not only had Taylor's spinal curve worsened to 53°, but she was also experiencing back pain so severe at times it would cause her to fall to the ground.



*In Mini Scoliosis Surgery 3 smaller incisions are made instead of a long 10 inch incision. The smaller incisions speed return to activity. Before Mini Scoliosis Surgery, Taylor's thoracic curve had progressed to 53° (left). After surgical correction, her curve was corrected to 16° (right) with only three small scars. She returned to full activity quickly — including cheerleading, modeling and horseback riding.*

Taylor and her parents understood that traditional scoliosis surgery involved a single long incision that would cut into muscles from the shoulder blades to the waist. They wanted to exhaust all treatment options before



resorting to such a long incision.

Taylor's parents began researching other scoliosis treatments and learned of "mini scoliosis surgery," which involves three small incisions instead of one long incision.

The new mini scoliosis surgery results in less scarring, less muscle dissection and less blood loss. The family was happy to learn that one of the first surgeons in the nation to do this surgery was Dr. Matthew Geck, a fellowship-trained scoliosis and spine surgeon at Seton Spine & Scoliosis Center in Austin, Texas.

Upon meeting Dr. Geck, Taylor and Angela were impressed with his professional and friendly personality. He put them at ease during an otherwise stressful situation. Dr. Geck talked with Taylor about mini scoliosis surgery. He noted that because the incisions are so much smaller, it will minimize the disruption to

muscles and ligaments. This would allow Taylor to get back to her normal activities in about three months.

Taylor and her parents made the decision to move forward with the surgery. Dr. Geck performed the minimally invasive procedure and it was successful in correcting her spinal curve.

Her straighter spine also gave Taylor new found self-confidence. "Three months after surgery she had cheerleader tryouts," says her mom. "She didn't know if she would be able to make the varsity team again, and she did." Her confidence and perfect posture was displayed when she competed in the Miss Texas Teen USA pageant. She has also started modeling.

Today, she is not limited in activity at all. Taylor is looking ahead to college and her future — with new found confidence.

## PHYSICIAN BIO

### MATTHEW GECK, MD

Board-certified Orthopedic Surgeon • Fellowship-Trained in Adult and Pediatric Spine Surgery  
Specializing in Scoliosis & Spinal Deformity

Co-Chief, Ascension Texas Spine and Scoliosis Center, Austin Texas • Chief, Scoliosis and Complex Spine Program

Assistant Professor Dell Medical School Department of Surgery and Preoperative Care

Co-Founder, Co-Medical Director of SpineHope, a non-profit organization that transforms the lives of children with spinal deformities worldwide through surgery, education and research



Matthew J. Geck MD is a board-certified, fellowship-trained spine and scoliosis surgeon. Dr. Geck's practice is exclusively focused on the niche of spine and scoliosis surgery. This includes patients with adult and pediatric scoliosis, kyphosis, failed surgeries, spinal cord compression, flatback syndrome from Harrington Rods and other complex spinal problems. His specialty spine practice has been based in Austin since 2002. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Geck has performed over 2,500 spine surgeries. His scoliosis practice receives patients from across Texas, surrounding patients and Mexico. He also performs surgeries in South America through his non-profit foundation SpineHope.

Dr. Geck's focus is on pediatric and adult patients with scoliosis, kyphosis, spinal cord compression, failed previous surgeries, and other complex spinal problems. He is experienced in minimally invasive scoliosis surgery, spinal stapling and tethering (fusionless scoliosis surgery), complex spinal reconstruction, osteotomy surgery, and revision surgeries.

Dr. Geck was raised in Wisconsin. He performed his undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin in the Medical Scholars program and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He attended medical school at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and graduated Alpha Omega Alpha. Dr. Geck performed his orthopedic surgery residency at UCLA Medical Center. He then performed two spine fellowships in adult and pediatric spine surgery, the first at Jackson Memorial Hospital and a second in pediatric scoliosis and kyphosis surgery at Miami Children's Hospital. He moved to Austin, Texas in 2002 where he started his spine deformity practice.

Dr. Geck has authored more than 80 scientific papers, book chapters, and abstracts for the journals Spine, The Journal of Spinal Disorders, Orthopedic Clinics in North America, The Spine Journal, and the Journal of the Scoliosis Research Society: Spinal Deformity, and presentations at the Scoliosis Research Society, International Meeting for Advanced Spinal Techniques, North American Spine Society, Cervical Spine Research Society, the Society for Minimally Invasive Surgery of the Spine, and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Dr. Geck was certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2004 and is a Fellow of the American Orthopedic Association, the Scoliosis Research Society, North American Spine Society, and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the Society for Minimally Invasive Surgery of the Spine, and the Cervical Spine Research Society.

Dr. Geck also contributes his time as Medical Director for SpineHope which performs free spine surgery for children in poverty-stricken countries across South America and elsewhere. Dr. Geck has traveled to more than 20 international locations, performing spinal deformity surgeries at various hospitals across South America. He has supervised or performed over 200 spine surgeries in these locales, and has seen over 1,000 children with severe or neglected spinal deformities. Through SpineHope, Dr. Geck provides advanced training to local spine surgeons at these hospitals in the specialty of spinal deformity and scoliosis. To learn more about this foundation, visit [SpineHope.org](http://SpineHope.org).