Stanford



Michael Jensen, MD, PhD

Clinical Assistant Professor, Neurosurgery

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Stanford Neurocritical Care Program**

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Bio

BIO

Dr. Michael Jensen is a neurosurgeon at Stanford Health Care. He also serves as a clinical assistant professor and director of endoscopic spine surgery in the Department of Neurosurgery, Division of Spine Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Dr. Jensen specializes in endoscopic and minimally invasive spine surgery for degenerative conditions, herniated discs, spinal stenosis, and spine-related pain, with experience in more than 2,000 procedures throughout his career. As Director of Endoscopic Spine Surgery at Stanford, he focuses on motion-preserving techniques that shorten recovery and restore function. He also employs advanced imaging and meticulous surgical planning to make spinal fusion safer and promote lasting healing. Dr. Jensen's care philosophy emphasizes precision, collaboration, and open communication—ensuring that every patient understands their options and feels confident in their care.

As a physician-scientist, Dr. Jensen focuses his research on improving the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of spine care. He has studied how cost-sharing policies, treatment timing, and prescribing patterns affect outcomes for patients with neck and back pain. He has also explored the use of machine learning and predictive modeling to guide clinical decision-making in neurosurgery. Currently, Dr. Jensen works with the Endoscopic Spine Research Group to improve patient pain control and functional recovery after endoscopic spine surgery.

Dr. Jensen has presented his work at national meetings, including those of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the Society of Lateral Access Surgery. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in journals such as The Spine Journal, JAMA Network Open, and World Neurosurgery. His research spans clinical care, health economics, and translational science, reflecting his commitment to advancing neurosurgical practice and improving patient outcomes.

Dr. Jensen is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Neurosurgery
- Spinal Fusion
- Endoscopic Spine Surgery
- Endoscopic Spine Fusion
- Motion Preservation
- Spinal Neoplasms
- Trauma, Spinal Cord

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Assistant Professor, Neurosurgery

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director Endoscopic Spine Surgery, Stanford Health Care, (2025- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Resident Teaching Award, Stanford University
- James W. Prahl Memorial Award, University of Utah
- Hurley Endowed Scholarship, University of Utah
- Hubbard Foundation Scholarship, University of Utah
- Barber Scholarship, University of Utah

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, American Association of Neurological Surgeons (2025 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Fellowship: University of Washington Neurosurgery Fellowship Program (2025) WA
- Residency: Stanford University Dept of Neurosurgery (2024) CA
- Enfolded Fellowship, Stanford University Dept of Neurosurgery , Complex Spinal Deformity (2022)
- Medical Education: University of Utah School of Medicine (2017) UT

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Getting What You Pay For: Impact of Copayments on Physical Therapy and Opioid Initiation, Timing, and Continuation for Newly Diagnosed Low Back Pain.** *The spine journal : official journal of the North American Spine Society*
  Jin, M. C., Jensen, M., Barros Guinle, M. I., Ren, A., Zhou, Z., Zygourakis, C. C., Desai, A. M., Veeravagu, A., Ratliff, J. K.
  2024

- **Opioid Usage in Lumbar Disc Herniation Patients with Nonsurgical, Early Surgical, and Late Surgical Treatments** *WORLD NEUROSURGERY*
  Zhou, Z., Jin, M. C., Jensen, M. R., Guinle, M., Ren, A., Agarwal, A. A., Leaston, J., Ratliff, J. K.
  2023; 173

- **Opioid usage in lumbar disc herniation patients with nonsurgical, early, and late surgical treatments.** *World neurosurgery*
  Zhou, Z., Jin, M. C., Jensen, M. R., Barros Guinle, M. I., Ren, A., Agarwal, A. A., Leaston, J., Ratliff, J. K.
  2023

- **Health Care Resource Utilization in Management of Opioid-Naive Patients With Newly Diagnosed Neck Pain.** *JAMA network open*
  Jin, M. C., Jensen, M., Zhou, Z., Rodrigues, A., Ren, A., Barros Guinle, M. I., Veeravagu, A., Zygourakis, C. C., Desai, A. M., Ratliff, J. K.
  2022; 5 (7): e2222062
- **Research reporting in cubital tunnel syndrome studies: an analysis of the literature.** *Acta neurochirurgica*
  Hug, N. F., Smith, B. W., Sakamuri, S., Jensen, M., Purger, D. A., Spinner, R. J., Wilson, T. J.
  1800
- **A Discussion of Machine Learning Approaches for Clinical Prediction Modeling.** *Acta neurochirurgica. Supplement*
  Jin, M. C., Rodrigues, A. J., Jensen, M., Veeravagu, A.
  2022; 134: 65-73
- **Diagnosis of Sports-Related Peripheral Nerve Injury** *Neurosurgical Care of Athletes*
  Hug, N. F., Jensen, M., Purger, D. A., Wilson, T. J.
  2022
- **Assessment of variability in motor grading and patient-reported outcome reporting: a multi-specialty, multi-national survey.** *Acta neurochirurgica*
  Smith, B. W., Sakamuri, S., Flavin, K. E., Jensen, M., Purger, D. A., Yang, L. J., Spinner, R. J., Wilson, T. J.
  2021
- **Commentary: Transdural Spinal Cord Herniation: An Exceptional Complication of Thoracoscopic Discectomy.** *Operative neurosurgery (Hagerstown, Md.)*
  Jensen, M., Zygourakis, C.
  2021
- **Case Report on Deep Brain Stimulation Rescue After Suboptimal MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound Thalamotomy for Essential Tremor: A Tractography-Based Investigation.** *Frontiers in human neuroscience*
  Saluja, S. n., Barbosa, D. A., Parker, J. J., Huang, Y. n., Jensen, M. R., Ngo, V. n., Santini, V. E., Pauly, K. B., Ghanouni, P. n., McNab, J. A., Halpern, C. H.
  2020; 14: 191
- **Trends in Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion in the United States: A MarketScan Study From 2007 to 2014.** *Clinical spine surgery*
  Varshneya, K., Medress, Z. A., Jensen, M., Azad, T. D., Rodrigues, A., Stienen, M. N., Desai, A., Ratliff, J. K., Veeravagu, A.
  2019
- **EQ-5D Quality-of-Life Analysis and Cost-Effectiveness After Skull Base Meningioma Resection** *NEUROSURGERY*
  Karsy, M., Jensen, M. R., Guan, J., Ravindra, V. M., Bisson, E. F., Couldwell, W. T.
  2019; 85 (3): E543–E552
- **Trends and Cost-Analysis of Lower Extremity Nerve Injury Using the National Inpatient Sample** *NEUROSURGERY*
  Foster, C. H., Karsy, M., Jensen, M. R., Guan, J., Eli, I., Mahan, M. A.
  2019; 85 (2): 250–56
- **EQ-5D Quality-of-Life Analysis and Cost-Effectiveness After Skull Base Meningioma Resection.** *Neurosurgery*
  Karsy, M., Jensen, M. R., Guan, J., Ravindra, V. M., Bisson, E. F., Couldwell, W. T.
  2019
- **Intravenous acetaminophen for postoperative supratentorial craniotomy pain: a prospective, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial.** *Journal of neurosurgery*
  Sivakumar, W., Jensen, M., Martinez, J., Tanana, M., Duncan, N., Hoesch, R., Riva-Cambrin, J. K., Kilburg, C., Ansari, S., House, P. A.
  2019; 130 (3): 766-722
- **Trends and Cost Analysis of Upper-Extremity Nerve Injury Using the National Inpatient Sample.** *World neurosurgery*
  Karsy, M., Watkins, R., Jensen, M. R., Guan, J., Brock, A. A., Mahan, M. A.
  2018
- **Trends and Cost-Analysis of Lower Extremity Nerve Injury Using the National Inpatient Sample.** *Neurosurgery*
  Foster, C. H., Karsy, M., Jensen, M. R., Guan, J., Eli, I., Mahan, M. A.
  2018

- **Thoracolumbar Cortical Screw Placement with Interbody Fusion: Technique and Considerations** *CUREUS*
  Karsy, M., Jensen, M. R., Cole, K., Guan, J., Brock, A., Cole, C.
  2017; 9 (7): e1419
- **Cornichons control ER export of AMPA receptors to regulate synaptic excitability.** *Neuron*
  Brockie, P. J., Jensen, M., Mellem, J. E., Jensen, E., Yamasaki, T., Wang, R., Maxfield, D., Thacker, C., Hoerndli, F., Dunn, P. J., Tomita, S., Madsen, D. M., Maricq, et al
  2013; 80 (1): 129-42
- **The SOL-2/Neto auxiliary protein modulates the function of AMPA-subtype ionotropic glutamate receptors.** *Neuron*
  Wang, R., Mellem, J. E., Jensen, M., Brockie, P. J., Walker, C. S., Hoerndli, F. J., Hauth, L., Madsen, D. M., Maricq, A. V.
  2012; 75 (5): 838-50
- **Wnt signaling regulates experience-dependent synaptic plasticity in the adult nervous system.** *Cell cycle (Georgetown, Tex.)*
  Jensen, M., Brockie, P. J., Maricq, A. V.
  2012; 11 (14): 2585-6
- **Wnt signaling regulates acetylcholine receptor translocation and synaptic plasticity in the adult nervous system.** *Cell*
  Jensen, M., Hoerndli, F. J., Brockie, P. J., Wang, R., Johnson, E., Maxfield, D., Francis, M. M., Madsen, D. M., Maricq, A. V.
  2012; 149 (1): 173-87