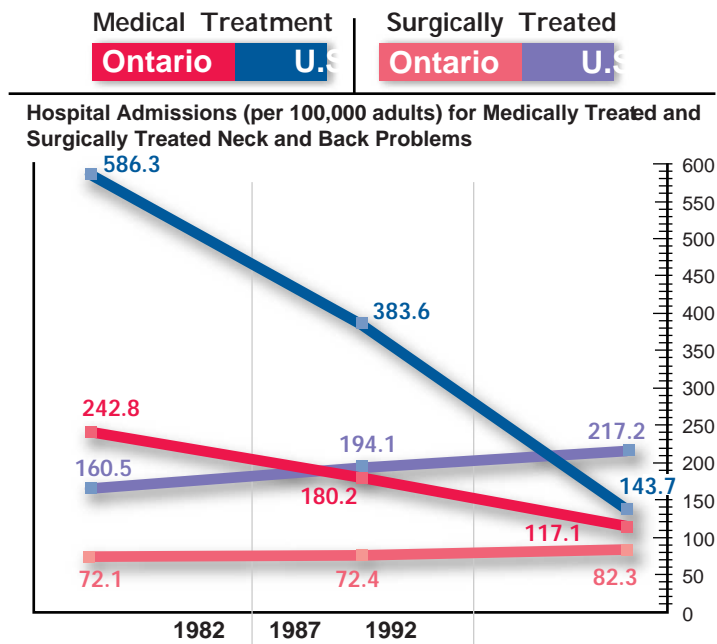


Less Medicine, More Surgery

The conventional paradigm for treating neck and back problems is medical treatment (usually drugs), and/or surgery. A recent study found a sharp decrease in medical treatment, but an alarming increase in surgery:



The researchers suggest that "higher admission rates for surgery in the U.S. may reflect a larger supply of surgical specialists and imaging units."

SOURCE: Lavis JN, Anderson GM, Taylor VM, Deyo RA, Bombardier C, Axcell T, Kreuter W. Trends in hospital use for mechanical neck and back problems in Ontario and the United States: discretionary care in different health care systems. *Can Med Assoc J* 1998; 158: 29-36