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Austin Man Travels To India For Surgery

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[Seema Mathur](#)

Reporting

(CBS 42) AUSTIN With one out of every four Texans uninsured, it's not surprising that many look to alternative forms of health care.

One Austinite traveled all the way to India to get less-costly surgery.

Ted Grenier hoped that the medical care he was promised via Internet correspondence would help his tremendous neck pain.

"Looking up at the sky or buildings was painful," Grenier explained to CBS 42 Medical Watch reporter Seema Mathur. "If I looked up... for more than 30 seconds, I felt like throwing up."

Grenier knew -- if anything went wrong -- his only recourse would be to sue in an Indian court.

After having that much pain for that long and not getting anything here done -- and feeling hopeless -- I wasn't scared," Grenier said. "I had nothing to lose."

When he arrived, Grenier says, his private room was nice, and his surgeon treated him with dignity -- not what he was used to as an uninsured person in the U.S.

"I never once felt uncomfortable or intimidated," he said. "I felt like I was safe, and I knew and could tell that (the doctor) was completely competent."

Grenier showed Mathur the invoice -- including all the pre-surgery and post-op tests.

"I ended up paying \$11,200 for one disk surgery -- (for) 16 days in the hospital," he said.

That's about \$30,000 less than what he says he would have paid for surgery in the U.S.

But what Grenier can't measure is his freedom from the pain.

"I have no problem moving my neck whatsoever," he says. "The pain before was a nine. Now, it's a one."

Grenier says, not only can he now look up at the sky, he says he can look forward to life.

He returned to America in July. So far, Grenier reports he has had no problems. He says he's following up with his doctor by phone.

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Ted Grenier's surgery in India was fully coordinated by TheTaj Medical Group Limited – Leading Specialists for immediate, high quality, cost effective private medical care internationally.

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