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# Blake undergoes neck surgery in LA

WASHINGTON -- Casey Blake had neck surgery performed Tuesday in Los Angeles to relieve pressure on a nerve that was causing him discomfort.

Dr. Robert Watkins Jr. performed the procedure, and Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said that a nerve was getting pinched, causing Blake much discomfort recently. Blake will remain in the hospital overnight and in a neck brace for a few weeks. He will not return this season.

Mattingly said it should be a pretty normal offseason for Blake, in terms of baseball.

Blake had a rough 2011, landing on the disabled list three different times for three different problems (cervical strain, left elbow infection, back), and never actually went on the disabled list for this most recent problem.

His last game was on Aug. 31 versus the Padres, and the 38-year old Blake played just 63 games this year, batting .252 with four homers and 26 RBIs.

### **Tidbits**

- Matt Kemp has played in 345 consecutive games, the longest current streak in the Major Leagues.
- Aaron Miles was in the starting lineup Tuesday, but he has been very good off the bench as a pinch-hitter. Miles is 6-for-13 (.462) in that role.
- Andre Ethier entered play Tuesday leading the Dodgers with 29 doubles -- which was 19th in the National League.

**Jeff Seidel** is a contributor to MLB.com. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

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commenter 2 days ago

Get better Mr. Blake



ZachWheatLives 3 days ago

I wish Casey well - neck surgery seems a whole lot more intricate than elbow. At 38, maybe he goes from a pinched nerve, to a pinch hitter. Dude could still make contact. He's one of those guys who could be an asset in the Dodgers' farm system too - prolly not as manager, but instructor/mentor.



Dodger65 4 days ago

The Dodgers have just as good young crop of players as any other Major League team. We could very well have some Major League telent and they well have a good chance to prove themselfs. So far every single player called up to the big show has done a very good job so let's win another game from the Nationals on this doulbeheader......"GO DODGERS".!!!!!!



doyerlifer 4 days ago