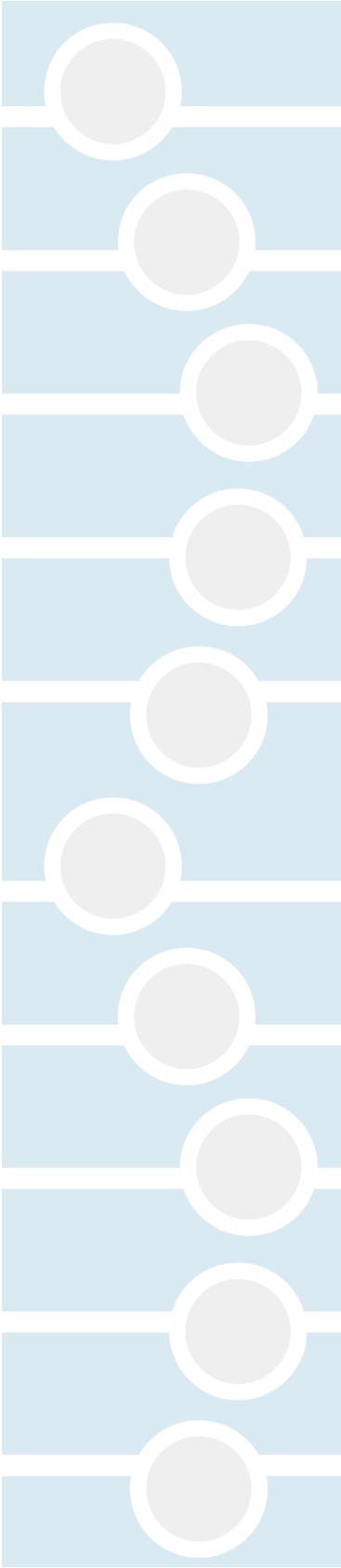


ARTIFICIAL CERVICAL (NECK) DISC IMPLANT - FIRST IN UNITED STATES



INDIANAPOLIS, IN - MAY 29, 2002 - On May 28, surgeons with the Indiana Spine Group, performed the first artificial cervical (neck) disc implant surgery in the United States. This groundbreaking implant surgery utilized an artificial cervical disc made out of titanium with a polyurethane nucleus. This advanced technology provides patients with more normal neck movement than the traditional fusion surgery.

The current standard surgical procedure involves the fusion of a bone from either the patient's hip or a human cadaver and the utilization of a metal plate. The use of the new artificial cervical disc eliminates the need for both the plate and human bone. According to Rick C. Sasso, MD, one of the surgeons performing the surgery, "This surgical advance provides the patient with normal motion in their neck in comparison to the current procedure which traditionally limits neck mobility post-operatively."

This surgery was performed at St. Vincent Hospital (Indianapolis) on a 41-year old male patient who suffered from a herniated cervical disc. This injury, caused by an automobile accident six months ago, severely limited his neck movement and caused severe left arm pain; which affected his activities with normal daily living. After intense ineffective pain management strategies, this patient became an ideal candidate for this implant. Physicians with the Indiana Spine Group, which performed the surgery, are one of 12 centers in the United States who have access to this technology. The technology used for the cervical disc implant is exciting in that it has been long anticipated by spine surgeons for four decades; i.e. since the first artificial hip joint replacement surgery in the 1960's.

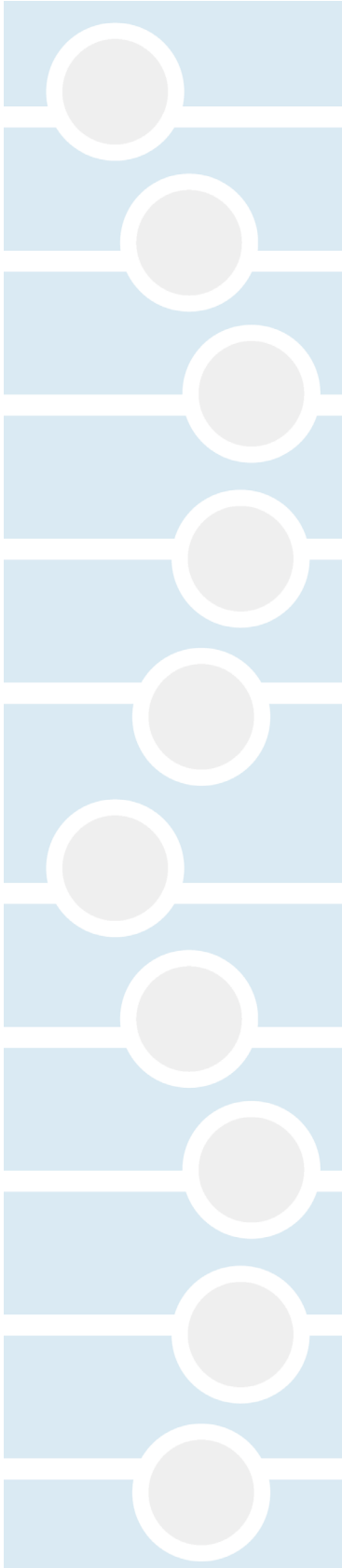
Rick C. Sasso, M.D. a board-certified orthopaedic spine surgeon and Kenneth L. Renkens, Jr., M.D. a board-certified neurosurgeon, performed this surgery. "This device,

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which resembles a normal disc, will become standard practice in the future. The patient benefits far exceed the current process utilized in anterior cervical fusion," states Kenneth L. Renkens, Jr. M.D. Both Dr. Sasso and Dr. Renkens, Jr. are with the Indiana Spine Group located in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Indiana Spine Group is dedicated to spine and neck diagnostics and surgery. Additionally, the physicians are involved in research to further advance the diagnostics, treatment and surgery of the neck and back.



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