



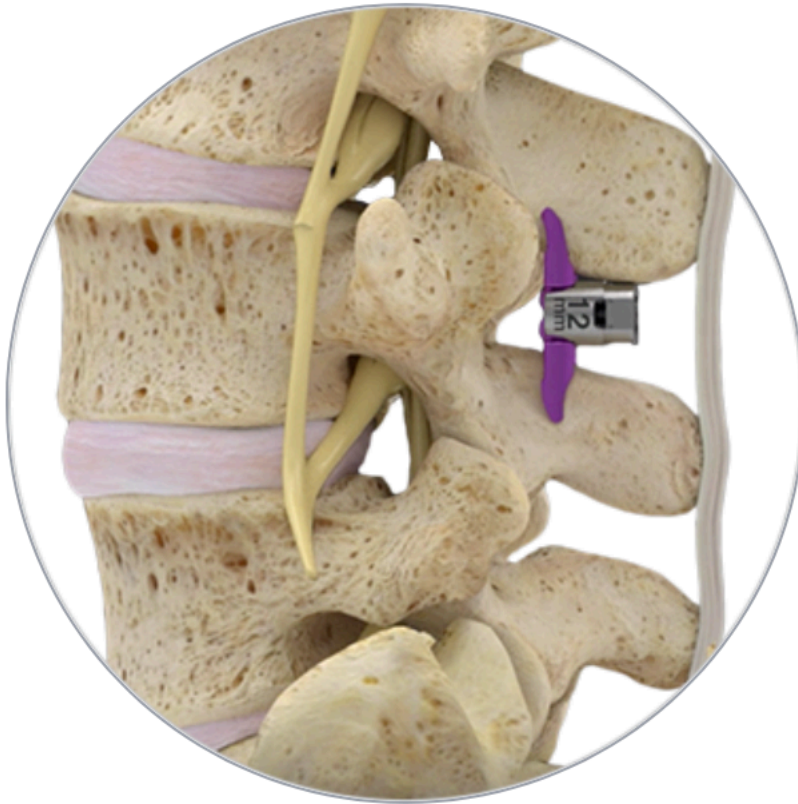
What is a Superion Vertiflex Spacer?

A Superion Spacer as a newer product that was developed for spinal stenosis. Spinal stenosis can cause pain and weakness in the lower extremities. Spinal stenosis is due to narrowing of the spinal canal which causes nerve compression. A spacer is an implantable device that works to increase space between spine levels and decreased this compression.

Why try a Superion Vertiflex Spacer?

A Superion Spacer Is a minimally invasive approach as compared with surgical options. This is the same-day procedure which is performed through the skin with minimal incision. The incision is about the size of a dime.

If you are taking a blood thinning medication you must let us know beforehand as this increases your risk tremendously. We will discuss your options and optimize the safety of this procedure.



Can anyone have a Superior Vertiflex Spacer?

Most people can have a Superior Spacer placed. If you have any localized infection, such as a boil on your back, or a generalized infection, the procedure would not be performed until the infection has cleared up.

The procedure is done under live xray to ensure that the spacer is placed correctly.

If you are taking a blood thinning medication you must let us know beforehand as this increases your risk tremendously. We will discuss your options and optimize the safety of this procedure.



What are the risks and complications?

There is a risk of headaches after this procedure, and that risk is about 1/1000. If this should occur after this procedure another procedure may need to be done. This headache it's very similar to the headache after an epidural.

The most common problems relate to local anesthetic which may be used. Local anesthetic could be injected into a blood vessel which can cause lightheadedness, seizure, numbness around the mouth.

Infection is always a risk whenever anything is injected into the body, and we take precautions to avoid this by performing the procedure as a fully sterile technique.

There is also a risk of damage to the nerve tissue in the area that this is performed which may lead to permanent paralysis. This risk is rare and is decreased by performing this procedure under life x-ray.

How is the procedure performed?

The procedure is performed in the operating room or office under ultrasound. When you arrive a small needle may be inserted into one of your veins, for safety, so that should any drugs be required, they can be easily given. You will be expected to lie on the table face down are you may have this sitting depending on the doctor preference.

Local anesthetic is injected into the skin and deeper tissues to



reduce the discomfort of the procedure. However, when the needle is inserted there will be a feeling of someone pushing in your shoulder, which is normal. The needle may be inserted in the lower part of your back. When the operator has put the needle in and confirmed that the needle is correctly positioned. The spacer will be placed and the needle removed.

What happens after the procedure?

After the procedure you will go into the recovery area where your blood pressure will be monitored.

What pain might you experience after the procedure?

The amount of pain experienced might become worse for a short period of time. If this occurs, it is not dangerous and should settle over time. You should start to have a relief within a week after placement.

Back at home

You should remove the dressing after 24 hours.

Will you be followed up afterwards?

You will be called for follow up to determine how the spacer is helping.

Important information

Please let us know before if you have:

A cold/flu
Fever/chills



A persistent cough

You are taking a course of antibiotics prior to procedure

Or there has been any significant change in your overall health as this may affect your procedure.

Failure to do so may result in your procedure being cancelled on the day.

Medication

Please take all your prescribed medication as normal prior to your procedure unless you have been otherwise advised

Please bring a list of all your current medication when you attend for your procedure

Can I eat before I come in?

If you plan to get sedation for the procedure you should not eat from midnight the night before.

If you have any questions or concerns about this procedure call the office at 480-636-1225.

This handout should not be considered more important than your doctors advice when you spoke to him in the clinic. The information contained in this is generalized and may not pertain to your specific condition.