

What is Vertebroplasty?

Vertebroplasty is a minimally invasive procedure that stabilizes painful spinal compression fractures and may increase patient mobility. It is a relatively short procedure where a needle is inserted through a small incision in the skin. A specifically formulated acrylic bone cement is then injected into the vertebral body through the needle. When the cement hardens it stabilizes the fracture and strengthens the vertebral body.

What causes a Vertebral Compression Fracture?

Vertebral compression fractures are caused by trauma, osteoporosis, and pathological fractures, the most common of which is osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a condition in which bone density is reduced. This may predispose a person to a vertebral compression fracture with little or no trauma. Vertebral compression fractures most commonly occur in women who have gone through menopause, but it can also occur in elderly men and in people who have had long-term use of steroid medications.

How do I know if I have a Vertebral Compression Fracture?

Symptoms can include one or more of the following: sudden back pain, limited spine mobility, height loss and increased pain while standing and/or walking.

Clinical References

Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR): Vertebroplasty □
Available at www.sirweb.org

American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR): Vertebroplasty □
Available at www.asnr.org

Radiological Society of North America (RSNA): Vertebroplasty □
Available at www.radiologyinfo.org

National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF): Disease Statistic on Osteoporosis □
Available at www.nof.org

American Society of Interventional & Therapeutic Neuroradiology (ASITN): □
Vertebral Compression Fractures
Available at www.asitn.org

Physician Contact Information

MS-LT-0033 Rev. A

Vertebroplasty



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