



Dr. George Rappard Among First In Los Angeles To Implant Investigational Device To Treat Leg Pain Caused By Spinal Stenosis

The Superior™ Interspinous Spacer is a minimally invasive alternative to traditional surgery to relieve chronic leg pain resulting from pressure on the spinal nerves that can develop from walking or standing for long periods.

Los Angeles, California ([PRWEB](#)) July 20, 2010 -- Dr. George Rappard, NeuroInterventional Surgeon, has completed treatment on the first 3 patients enrolled in a new spine research study at the Los Angeles Brain and Spine Institute. The goal is to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the Superior™ device for treatment of moderate lumbar spinal stenosis as compared to the X-STOP® IPD® device, a commercially available implant requiring an open surgical implantation. The Los Angeles Brain and Spine Institute is one of three sites in California participating in the clinical trial.

Spinal stenosis, a degenerative narrowing of the spaces in the spine that can lead to spinal cord and/or nerve root compression, is believed to be the cause of leg and back pain for nearly 1.2 million Americans. When non-surgical treatments fail to provide relief, patients are traditionally offered a spinal decompression or even fusion surgery. This may require a large incision to remove bone and ligaments pressing on the nerve roots. In contrast, both procedures being studied in the clinical trial are minimally invasive with most patients able to return home the same day.

To qualify for the study, patients must be 45 years or older, have leg symptoms caused by spinal stenosis, had symptoms for at least 6 months, and experience relief when sitting or bending forward. Patients who meet the study criteria and agree to participate in the study will be randomly chosen (like the flip of a coin) to receive either the Superior™ ISS or the X-STOP® IPD® device.

“The Superior and X-stop devices represent a significant advancement in the evolution of minimally invasive spine surgery,” according to Dr. Rappard. “This trial allows me to offer cutting edge therapy to patients suffering from spinal stenosis. Due to the minimally invasive nature of the procedures being studied I expect my patients to be on their feet shortly after the surgery. All our patients to date have gone home on the day of surgery.”

Earl R. Fender, President and Chief Executive Officer for VertiFlex, the manufacturer of the Superior device and clinical study sponsor stated, “We are very pleased to have Dr. Rappard join the Superior U.S Clinical Trial as one of its principal investigators. We expect that the Superior Interspinous Spacer will offer a unique alternative for treating an aging population suffering from spinal stenosis. VertiFlex looks forward to demonstrating beneficial patient outcomes in the clinical research study so that Superior interspinous spacer device may soon be offered to the general public.”

The Los Angeles Brain and Spine Institute provides state of the art comprehensive and minimally invasive brain and spine therapies, including supportive care and cutting edge research. The Institute consists of a seasoned and experienced multi-disciplinary team of neurosurgeons, neurointerventional surgeons, neurocritical care specialists and therapists. Our care is delivered in a compassionate and accessible community based setting.

For more information:



To learn more about minimally invasive and comprehensive spine therapies, visit the Los Angeles Brain and Spine Institute at www.LABrainandSpine.com, or email us at [info\(at\)LABrainandSpine\(dot\)com](mailto:info(at)LABrainandSpine(dot)com). On twitter, www.twitter.com/LASpine.

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