

Press Release

RESEARCH STUDY DOCUMENTS POST-OPERATIVE PAIN FOLLOWING AUTOGENOUS ILIAC CREST BONE GRAFT SURGERY

Presentation of Research Results

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 13, 2002) - Dr. Rick Sasso presented the results of a research study entitled, "Iliac Crest Graft Site Pain after ALIF: A Prospective Patient Outcome Assessment," at the annual meeting of the North American Spine Society held in Montreal, Canada - October 30 thru November 2.

The purpose of this 24-month study was to determine the frequency of graft site pain following the postoperative period. In spinal fusion surgery, the "gold-standard" for bone grafting is to use the patients' own bone from the iliac crest (hip bone). This study determined if and how long the patient experienced pain at the bone graft site following surgery. Additionally, the study also evaluated the appearance of the graft site during this 24-month period.

A total of 202 patients were included in the study. The study concluded that 31% (62) of the patients had persistent pain 24-months following surgery and 16% (32) reported fair or poor appearance of their graft site during this time period. This is significant, in that patients now have an option when spine fusion surgery is required.

Patients' can now take advantage of a FDA recently approved device - INFUSE(tm) Bone Graft. INFUSE Bone Grafts contains recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein (rhBMP-2). This is a generally engineered version of a naturally occurring protein that initiates bone growth or bone regeneration, in specific, targeted areas of the spine. This new device eliminates the need for the autogenous bone graft. Therefore, the patient does not experience the post-operative pain, which can last up to a minimum of two years following surgery.

Providing the full spectrum of spine care



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Dr. Rick Sasso is a board-certified orthopaedic spine surgeon with the Indiana Spine Group, located in Indianapolis, IN. In addition to being one of the principal investigators in this research, Dr. Sasso also participated in the FDA clinical trials for the newly approved procedure. At this time, he has performed this new procedure on approximately 20 patients, the projected new “gold-standard” in spinal fusion surgery.

The Indiana Spine Group is dedicated to back and neck diagnostics and surgery. Additionally, the physicians are actively involved in research to further advance the diagnostics, treatment and surgery of the neck and back.

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