



TWO YEARS FOLLOW UP ON 37 PATIENTS IMPLANTED WITH A PROSTHETIC DISC NUCLEUS

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Significance: In the study a total 37 patients who failed to be adequately helped by non-surgical treatment for pain caused by degenerative disc disease (DDD), have been implanted with the PDN Prosthetic Disc Nucleus. Clinical experience for 17 of these patients in the feasibility portion of the study who have been followed for 2 years will be presented.

Materials/Methods: Since January, 1998, 17 patients in the feasibility portion of the study were implanted with the PDN prosthesis after unilateral discectomy. Study inclusion criteria were lumbar DDD restricted to a single level, reduced disc height with at least 5mm disc he-

ight remaining intact facets chronic with low back pain unresolved by conservative treatment. The PDN prosthesis, which is implanted in pairs, is available in various sizes and shapes to accommodate patient anatomy.

Findings: Two years follow up for 10 of the 34 patients shows improvement of low back pain and increased range of motion as evidenced by a 90% improvement of the Oswestry Score and 87% improvement in the Visual Analog Scale.

Conclusions: Our early experience has shown the PDN device to be a promising treatment for mild to moderate DDD.