

# BAK<sup>®</sup> Interbody Fusion Systems

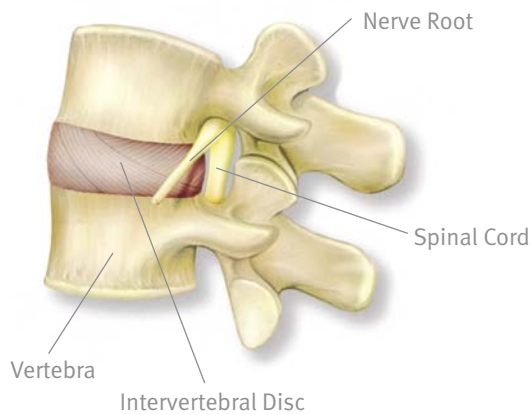
The Complete Interbody Fusion System for the Spine



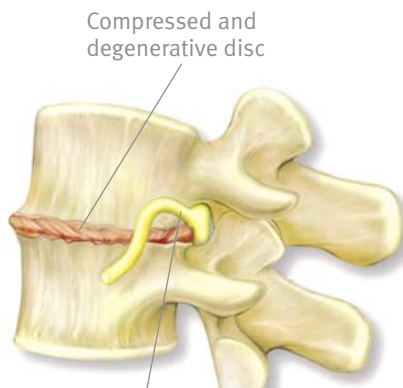
# BAK<sup>®</sup> Interbody Fusion Systems

This Patient Information Brochure is provided to help you make an informed decision about your back surgery.

## Normal



## Abnormal



This surgical procedure will be using the BAK®  
Interbody Fusion Systems.

Some common causes of back problems are disc  
injury (e.g., herniation) and disc degeneration.  
Disc degeneration affects about 12 million  
people in the U.S., of whom most are with-  
in the ages of 20 to 65. Approximately  
10 percent of patients with degenera-  
tive discs are candidates for some  
type of spinal surgery.



In your lower back there are five  
vertebrae (bones). Between  
each of the vertebra is a disc.  
Discs are the “shock absorb-  
ers” of your spine and act as  
spacers between vertebrae.  
As discs degenerate, they  
lose their water content and  
height, bringing the vertebrae  
closer together. This results  
in a weakening of the shock  
absorption properties of the  
disc and a narrowing of the  
nerve openings between the  
vertebrae which may pinch  
your nerves. This disc degenera-  
tion can eventually cause back  
and leg pain or numbness.

The *BAK* systems are designed  
to stabilize and fuse the  
degenerative disc space(s),  
with the intent of providing a  
better alternative treatment for



### **What Are the BAK Interbody Fusion Systems?**

The *BAK* Interbody Fusion Systems are an innovative technique for spinal fusion, which is less invasive than other methods. This procedure utilizes small, threaded cylinders to restore the degenerated disc space to or near its original height, relieving pressure on your nerves. These systems are approved for patients with degenerative disc disease (DDD) at one or two levels and may be implanted from the second lumbar disc (L2) down to the sacrum.

In addition, patients should be skeletally mature and should have had six months of non-operative treatment. The *BAK* systems should not be used in patients with severe infection.

### **What Happens During Surgery?**

During surgery, your doctor will remove portions of the painful disc and vertebral bones, allowing the implants to be inserted into the disc space. A small amount of bone may then be taken from your hip and packed inside the *BAK* systems. The *BAK* systems can be implanted from either a front (anterior), back (posterior) or laparoscopic surgical approach. If the *BAK* systems are to be implanted through a laparoscopic approach, surgery is limited to the L4-L5 and L5-S1 disc levels. However, patients with multiple previous abdominal surgeries should not have the *BAK* systems implanted through the laparoscopic approach. Your doctor will make the decision on

## What are Some of the Benefits of the BAK Procedure?

Part of the development process for the *BAK* systems was a tightly regulated clinical study. Clinical outcomes of this study have shown reductions in pain and increased activity levels. Based upon the findings of this clinical study, the *BAK* systems were shown to offer many advantages over traditional fusion methods. The following are some advantages:

- The procedure has been found to have a low overall complication rate.
- The amount of blood loss during surgery can be much less than other types of spinal fusion.
- Postoperative pain may be minimized through a decrease in the amount of surgical intervention.
- Operative procedure time and length of stay in the hospital can be less than other fusion methods.
- Return to daily activities can be much quicker.

These findings follow the general trend in medical care toward less invasive surgical techniques that provide better outcomes for patients.



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