

## AFTER VERTEBRAL AUGMENTATION

Typical postoperative care involves the following:

After the procedure, you will be transferred to a recovery room for about an hour where you will be monitored. Your doctor will decide when to discharge you.

You will have a follow-up visit and your doctor will explain limitations, if any, on your physical activity.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information is available on the websites of:

- North American Spine Society  
[www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org)
- Society of Interventional Radiology  
[www.sirweb.org](http://www.sirweb.org)
- National Osteoporosis Foundation  
[www.nof.org](http://www.nof.org)

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You should also feel free to ask questions of your doctor.

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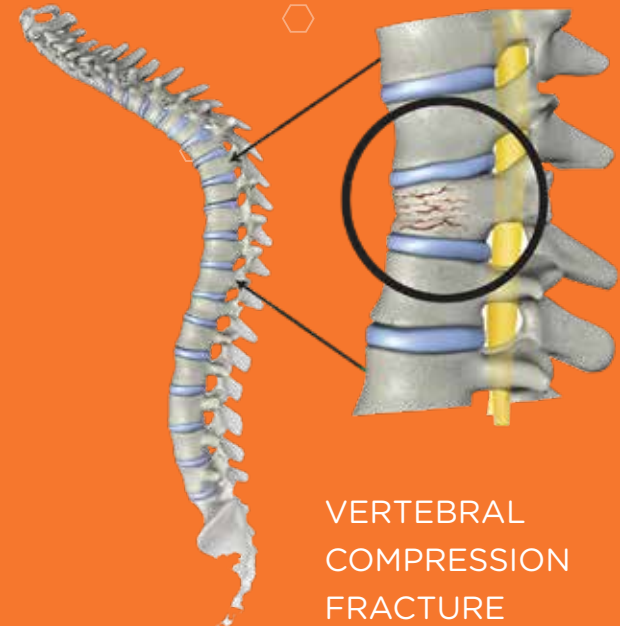
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L121, Rev. B

# Blazer®

## Vertebral Augmentation System



VERTEBRAL  
COMPRESSION  
FRACTURE

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Minimally Invasive Treatment For  
Vertebral Compression Fractures

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## VERTEBRAL COMPRESSION FRACTURES (VCFs)

Compression fractures of the spine occur when one or more of your vertebra - the bones of the spine - cracks, fractures, or collapses. Spinal fractures are unique because they frequently occur without apparent trauma and may cause no symptoms, often going undiagnosed until other complications arise. Osteoporosis accounts for approximately 85% of all vertebral compression fractures (VCFs); trauma and malignancies make up the remainder of the cases.

### VCF SYMPTOMS

The symptoms associated with a vertebral compression fracture will vary considerably from individual to individual. The following list includes the most common symptoms associated with osteoporosis related fractures:

- Sudden onset of severe “knifelike” back pain
- Chronic or gradual onset of back pain
- Loss of height, as much as six inches over time
- Kyphosis (curved back), commonly called a dowager’s hump
- Stomach complaints
- Hip pain
- Breathing problems

## VCF TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment options for VCFs include bed rest, back braces, and pain medication, as well as minimally invasive vertebral augmentation procedures.

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Your doctor will discuss treatment options with you.

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## VERTEBRAL AUGMENTATION WITH BLAZER-C

The Blazer-C Vertebral Augmentation System is a device used in minimally invasive vertebral augmentation procedures that can be performed in a spine specialist’s office or in a hospital setting.

The Blazer-C System is indicated for the treatment of pathological compression fractures of the vertebral body that result from osteoporosis, benign lesions, or malignant lesions, by creating channels in the existing spinal bone structure for the flow of bone cement.

### HOW BLAZER-C WORKS

The vertebral augmentation procedure can be done under local or general anesthesia – your doctor will determine which option is best for you. The procedure usually takes less than an hour per fracture treated.

Your doctor will access your VCF via one small (1 cm) incision on your back at the level of the fracture.

The Blazer-C wire is advanced, under x-ray guidance, to create channels in the vertebral body bone providing controlled delivery and placement of bone cement.



Bone cement is injected into the vertebral body to stabilize the fracture. Cement flow preferentially follows the channels created by Blazer-C.

