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March 27, 2006



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cervical Artificial Disk Replacement Removes Barriers for Patients

Patients with degenerative disk disease (DDD) may soon have an alternative treatment to cervical fusion (where two or more disks are fused together) that will alleviate pain and retain range of motion in the neck. Currently more than 200,000 spine fusion surgeries are performed each year in the U.S (according to an April 2003 report by Health Research International). By age 50, more than half of the U.S. population has evidence of disk degeneration.

Spine surgeons Charles Gordon and Guy Danielson will be performing the first cervical artificial disk replacement in East Texas at Texas Spine & Joint Hospital, Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at 7:00 a.m. This breakthrough surgery is part of a clinical trial taken on by Dr. Gordon to evaluate a new cervical artificial disk developed by Kineflex|C for the treatment of DDD. "The purpose of the trial is to show that disk replacement is a safe and effective alternative to fusion in the neck," says Dr. Gordon. "The success of this clinical trial means that DDD patients who could previously only look forward to cervical fusion and loss of motion as a treatment would now be able to retain a wide range of motion while minimizing or eliminating their neck pain with artificial disk replacement."

Cervical Artificial Disk Replacement is not yet available to the public. Only about 300 individuals have received the disk replacement in the US as part of the clinical trials.

For more information contact *Nancy Johnson, Marketing Coordinator at (903-525-7002).*