

Spinal Fractures and Balloon Kyphoplasty

The Condition: **Spinal Fractures**

The Solution: **Balloon Kyphoplasty Procedure**

Osteoporosis causes more than 700,000 spinal fractures each year in the U.S. according to the National Osteoporosis Foundation, this is more than twice the annual number of hip fractures.

Balloon Kyphoplasty is a minimally invasive procedure that stabilizes the fracture thereby reducing pain and providing for correction of the deformity. Studies report the following benefits:

- Significant reduction of back pain.
- Significant improvement in quality of life.
- Correction of vertebral body deformity.
- LOW complication rate.
- Significant improvement in mobility, including the ability to perform daily activities such as walking, hobbies, and work.
- Significant reduction in the number of days per month that a patient remains in bed.
- Over 800,000 patients treated worldwide.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Pakbaz, find more information about Balloon Kyphoplasty, or any other Neurosurgical needs please contact:
UCSD, Division of Neurosurgery
at (619) 543-5540 or (888) 9NEURO1.

Dr. Ramin Sean Pakbaz

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Since his appointment at UCSD in July of 2007, Dr. Pakbaz has been instrumental in establishing the most effective and cutting edge neurointerventional program in San Diego county. The patient population now attracted to the university includes acute and emergency stroke therapy, ruptured aneurysm treatment, devascularization of tumors, intra-arterial chemotherapy of advanced head and neck cancer, and most recently, the newest percutaneous interventions for advanced spine disease.

As a key pioneer of new technology for treatment of compression fractures of the osteoporotic spine, Dr. Pakbaz has a collaborative approach for treatment in conjunction with UCSD Neurosurgery.

Dr. Pakbaz has performed over 500 Balloon Kyphoplasties with a very high success rate.

"Today I do everything. We have a two-story home, and I am always going up and down the steps, and I couldn't do that before the (balloon kyphoplasty) procedures because of my back pain. I am also gardening again. I walk two miles a day and work out on weight machines. I am a very active person. I don't sit."

Priscilla Turner, 67 | Memphis, Tennessee



The Balloon Kyphoplasty Procedure

- Using a needle and tube, the spine specialist creates a small pathway into the fractured bone. A small, orthopaedic balloon is guided through the tube into the vertebra. The incision site is approximately 1 cm in length.
- The balloon is carefully inflated in an attempt to raise the collapsed vertebra and return it to its normal position. Inflation of the balloon creates a void (cavity) in the vertebral body.
- Once the vertebra is in the correct position, the balloon is deflated and removed.
- The cavity is filled with bone cement forming an “internal cast” to support the surrounding bone and prevent further collapse.
- Generally, the procedure is done on both sides of the vertebral body.



For more information go to: <http://neurosurgery.ucsd.edu/>