

Kyphoplasty

General Information

Kyphoplasty is surgery to relieve pain caused by compression fractures (breaks) in your vertebrae. This damage could be caused by osteoporosis, tumors or accident. Other treatments did not provide relief.

The surgery takes about 1 hour for each fractured vertebra that is treated.

During Your Surgery

- You may have local anesthesia (numbing of the skin and tissues) or general anesthesia (a numbing medicine that “puts you under” or “puts you to sleep”).
- Your surgeon will make an incision (cut) on your back and insert a small tube.
- He or she will use live X-ray.
- Your surgeon will insert a special balloon through the tube into the fractured vertebra.
- He or she will inflate the balloon to return the pieces of bone to a more normal position. The process also makes an open area (cavity) inside your vertebra.
- Your surgeon will remove the balloon and fill the cavity with a cement-like material that hardens quickly. This keeps the bone from moving.

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After Your Surgery

See your “Understanding Spine Surgery” book for more details on caring for yourself at home and medicines to take to relieve pain.

Whom to Call With Questions

Talk with your health care team if you have any questions or concerns.



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