



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN ORTHOPEDIC MEDICINE**

**\*\*IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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**FIRST ELECTRONIC ARTIFICIAL SPINAL DISC SUCCESSFULLY  
IMPLANTED IN A PRIMATE**

Redefining artificial spinal disc replacement technology in the United States

**AKRON, OHIO (April 18, 2005)** – A significant event occurred in the field of orthopedic medicine by medical device manufacturer Theken Disc, located in Akron, Ohio. The first and only six-degree of freedom artificial spinal replacement disc, made from in-house developed polymers and containing embedded micro-electronics, was implanted into a primate (baboon) at an undisclosed location within the United States.



Artificial spinal disc replacement technology is a new non-fusion spinal surgery option in the United States.

It enables a patient to retain movement after spinal surgery versus the fusion alternative which restricts movement or fuses the spine. Now, patients', whose conditions meet the indications for an artificial spinal disc, may have the option for surgery.

The first artificial spinal disc, Charite, by Depuy was approved by the FDA in October 2004. The Charite is a ball and socket design and does not include electronics.

The eDisc™ by Theken is the next generation of artificial spinal disc replacement technology. It features:



**Natural biomechanics**

Physiologic design mimics the natural disc by restoring the six degrees of freedom.

**Electronics**

(more)

The embedded microelectronics redefines post-operative patient management through wireless data collection. This provides surgeons the unprecedented ability to assess and manage their patients by tracking the motions and loads on the lumbar spine.

#### **Theken developed polymer**

Theken developed elastomeric polymer is tailored to withstand the motions and loads of the lumbar spine.

The eDisc is in primate testing for the next 3-6 months. Once the efficacy of the electronics is proven, the eDisc will enter clinical trials.

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*Theken and eDisc are registered trademarks. Other company and product names mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.*

#### **Photos**

High resolution photos available, please contact Rachael Smith, [rsmith@thekenspine.com](mailto:rsmith@thekenspine.com), 330.773.7677 ext 210 (office), 330.807.2569 (mobile)

#### **Video**

Multimedia and video segments available, please contact Rachael Smith, [rsmith@thekenspine.com](mailto:rsmith@thekenspine.com), 330.773.7677 ext 210 (office), 330.807.2569 (mobile)

#### **Interview candidate**

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