



283 E. Waterloo Rd.
Akron, OH 44319
Phone: 330.773.7677
Fax: 330.773.7697
www.theken.com

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

THEKEN ADDS ORTHOBIOLOGICS TO THEIR RAPIDLY GROWING PRODUCT PORTFOLIO

AKRON, OH (October 31, 2005) Theken Spine, a leader in spinal implant systems, today announced an Orthobiologic product line. The product line consists of custom shaped resorbable β -tricalcium phosphate (TCP) grafts used to treat osseous defects of the skeletal system. β -TCP is an osteoconductive material with a long history of use in clinical orthopedic applications. The custom shapes, ideal resorption rate of approximately 6-12 months and internal architecture lead to high fusion rates.

The product efficacy of the β -TCP used in the Theken orthobiologics has been proven through *in vitro* and *in vivo* testing. Studies show β -TCP maintains high levels of bone in-growth while maintaining controlled graft resorption rates, resulting in high quality bone with mechanical properties comparable to native tissue.

Custom shaped β -TCP provides many benefits to the surgeon as well as the patient. These products may be tailored to fill bone voids and other osseous defects. This simplifies the surgical technique as well as reduces procedure time.

"The concept for the custom shaped products came from our company philosophy which is to design solutions with fewer parts and fewer steps," states Dale Davison, VP of Engineering for Theken Spine. "It is a simple concept and I am surprised we are one of the first manufacturers to provide such a solution. This in turn benefits the patient through better fusion rates and the hospital by reducing the cost of the procedure."

Due to the unique shape and architecture, Theken's orthobiologics can be readily mixed with other components including bone marrow aspirate to provide for an osteogenic

bone graft (Marrow aspiration kits are provided by Theken). Demineralized bone can also be mixed with the graft to promote osteoinductivity.

Theken's Orthobiologic product line includes:

TrueForm-CP™ – TCP shaped for cervical applications

TrueForm-LP™ – TCP shaped for lumbar applications

TrueForm-LT™ – TCP shaped for lumbar applications

iLINK™ – Rectangular shaped TCP ideal for PLIF procedures

xLINK™ – Cross shaped TCP bone void filler

Bone Marrow Aspiration Kit



“Spinal implant manufacturers providing orthobiologics is the industry trend. Our orthobiologics offering is currently β -TCP products,” states Randy Theken Founder of Theken Spine. “We are looking to expand it by providing additional orthobiologic solutions in the near term.”

About Theken

The Theken family of companies Theken Spine LLC, Theken Disc LLC, Theken Orthopaedic LLC and Therics LLC (www.theken.com) specializes in pioneering spinal implant technologies that improve spinal surgical techniques benefiting patients as well as surgeons. Theken provides comprehensive product lines that offer surgeons peace of mind through steadfast product reliability and easy-to-use instrumentation. Products include cervical plates, pedicle screws, spacers, degenerative/deformity and trauma devices. Theken also leads the market in next-generation artificial disc replacement technology.

Company Contact

Rachael Smith
Director of Marketing
Theken Spine
Phone: 330-773-7677 x 210
Mobile: 330-807-2569
Email: rsmith@thekenspine.com

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