



## What is it?

Vertebroplasty is a minimally invasive procedure in which bone cement is injected into the spine (vertebral body) to treat compression fractures of the lumbar spine.

## Who is it for?

This operation is most helpful in reducing pain relating to acute lumbar and lower thoracic vertebral fractures, not responding to pain medication, and prevent further collapse of the vertebral body. It is best performed within the first 6 weeks of the fracture occurring.

## How is it done?

Vertebroplasty is done under local anaesthetic and sedation in an operating room with specialised medical imaging equipment. While laying on your stomach, your interventional radiologist will use x-rays to guide a needle through the skin into the vertebral body. Bone cement will then be carefully injected into the vertebral body. This may be required on both sides of the bone.

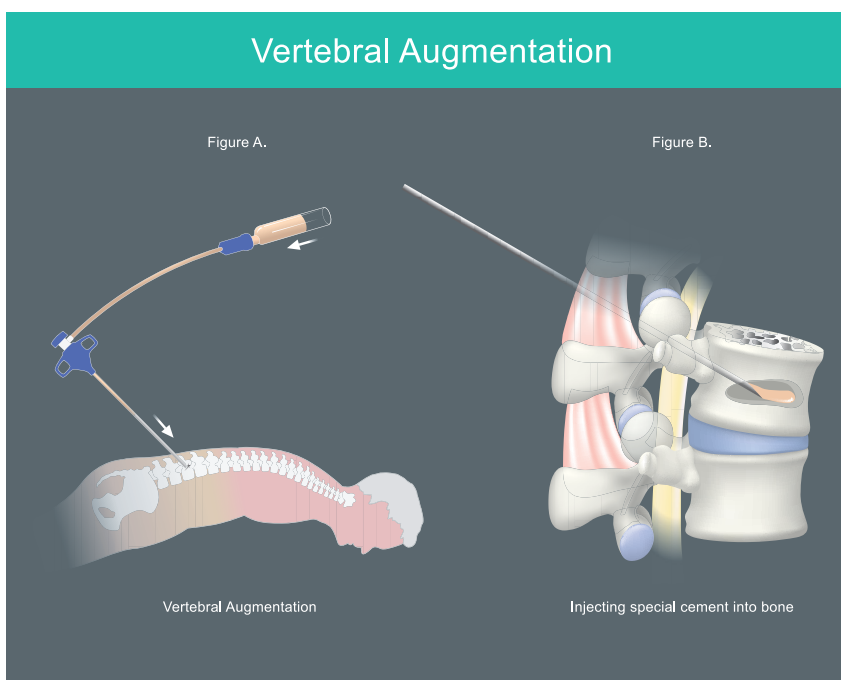
## What are the risks?

It is important to discuss the risks and complications of this procedure with your interventional radiologist in full, but some of the risk associated with this procedure include:

- pain
- bleeding
- infection
- leakage of cement at the time of procedure into veins of the lung or spinal canal

## Follow up

This procedure can be done as a day case (with discharge home same day). You will be followed up within the first few days of your operation by your interventional radiologist to assess the success of the vertebroplasty. Further CT or MRI scans are not usually required unless you have further pain.



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