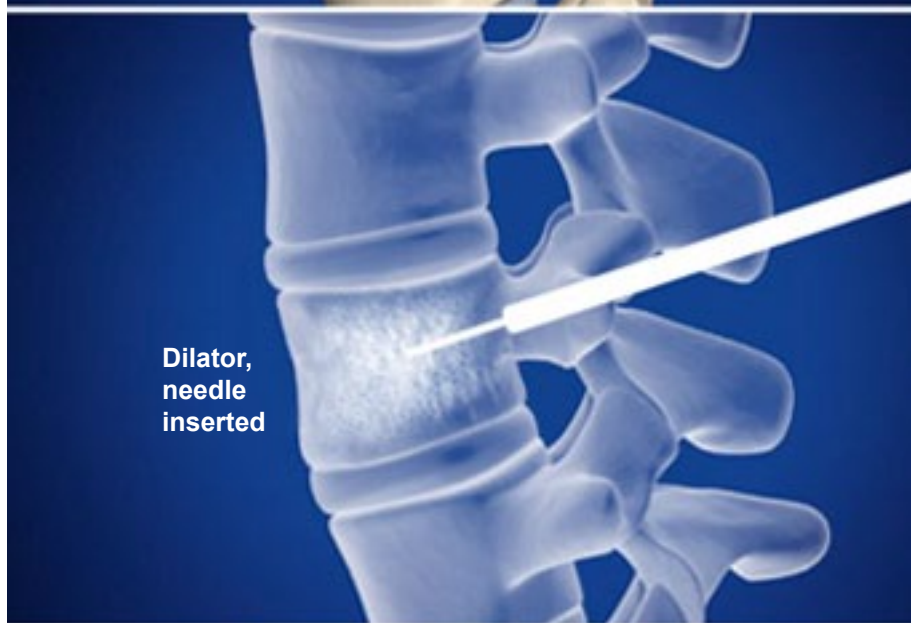


## VERTEBROPLASTY



### Overview

This minimally-invasive treatment is used to repair spine fractures caused by osteoporosis or cancer. It stabilizes the spine, providing rapid back pain relief and helping prevent further weakening of the spine.

### Bone Biopsied

After an area on the back is numbed, a tube is inserted through a small incision and positioned under x-ray guidance. One or two needles are inserted into the collapsed vertebra and used to collect diseased bone tissue for study.

### Fracture Stabilized

The weakened area in the vertebra is filled with bone cement to stabilize the fracture. Once filled, the tube is removed. In some cases, the cement may be injected in both the left and right sides of the vertebra.

### End of Procedure

An "internal cast" is now in place. The cast stabilizes the vertebral body and provides rapid mobility and pain relief.