Experiences with a new intervertebral disc spacer Cespace\textsuperscript{©} from AESCULAP for the spondylodesis of the cervical spine in comparison with other products [WEBER\textsuperscript{©}, INTROMED\textsuperscript{©}, MEDINORM\textsuperscript{©}, ACROMED\textsuperscript{©}]

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**Purpose:** The ventral spondylodesis with an autologous bone graft for degenerative disease of the cervical spine bears the disadvantage of complications and heavy pain at the superior pelvic straight. To reduce this problems the intervertebral disc spacer were developed.

**Method:** Between September 1997 and January 2002 we operated on 213 patients suffering from degenerative disease of the cervical spine (osteochondrosis and/or disk prolapse). Without any patient selection (i.e. according to a randomised sample) we implanted the different disc spacer by a ventral approach after microsurgical discectomy and removal of the dorsal osteophytes by a high-speed drill.

**Results:** The Titanium disc spacer by AESCULAP\textsuperscript{©}, WEBER\textsuperscript{©}, INTROMED\textsuperscript{©} and MEDINORM\textsuperscript{©} were used in 71, 55, 52 and 18 cases and the carbonium spacer of ACROMED\textsuperscript{©} in 17 cases. We evaluated the handling, x-ray contrasts, costs of implantation and the short-term results after 3 months and one year.

**Conclusions:** All of the five disc spacers are suitable for the ventral spondylodesis of the cervical spine. The Titanium spacer from WEBER\textsuperscript{©} is characterised by its comfortable handling and a price in the mean range. A good cost effectiveness and an easy handling is given by the INTROMED\textsuperscript{©} cage. The x-ray contrast of the carbonium spacer by ACROMED\textsuperscript{©} is insufficient. The handling is good but the price is to high. The MEDINORM\textsuperscript{©}, INTROMED\textsuperscript{©} and ACROMED\textsuperscript{©} spacer have the tendency to drop plates of the vertebras. We recommend the AESCULAP spacer Cespace\textsuperscript{©} for ventral fusion because of its handling and the low costs. A final statement can only be given after the achievement of long-term results.