

Intrasept is a minimally invasive procedure designed to treat chronic low back pain (CLBP) caused by degenerative disc disease (DDD). Developed by Relievent Medsystems, Intrasept targets a specific nerve pathway believed to be responsible for transmitting pain signals from the vertebral endplates, where degenerative changes occur, to the brain.

How Intrasept Works

1. **Targeted Ablation:** Using radiofrequency energy, the procedure targets the basivertebral nerve (BVN), which innervates the vertebral endplates.
2. **Nerve Deactivation:** The radiofrequency energy is delivered to the BVN through a specialized probe, leading to the deactivation of the nerve.
3. **Pain Relief:** By interrupting the pain signals transmitted by the BVN, Intrasept aims to provide long-lasting pain relief for patients with chronic low back pain.

Indications for Intrasept

Intrasept is indicated for patients with chronic low back pain (CLBP) caused by degenerative disc disease (DDD) who have not responded to conservative treatments such as physical therapy, medications, or steroid injections. The procedure is typically considered for patients with specific characteristics, including:

- Persistent, disabling low back pain for at least six months.
- Failed response to conservative treatments.
- Evidence of DDD on imaging studies such as MRI.

Benefits of Intrasept

- **Minimally Invasive:** Intrasept is performed through a small incision, typically as an outpatient procedure.
- **Targeted Approach:** Targets a specific nerve pathway believed to be involved in the generation of chronic low back pain.
- **Long-Lasting Relief:** Clinical studies have shown significant and sustained pain relief following Intrasept treatment.

Risks and Considerations

As with any medical procedure, there are potential risks and considerations associated with Intracept, including:

- **Procedure-related Risks:** Possible risks include infection, bleeding, nerve injury, or adverse reactions to anesthesia.
- **Incomplete Relief:** Not all patients may experience significant pain relief following the procedure.
- **Limited Availability:** Intracept may not be available at all medical centers, and eligibility criteria may vary.

Post-Procedure Care

- **Recovery Time:** Patients may experience some discomfort or soreness at the incision site, which typically resolves within a few days.
- **Activity Restrictions:** Patients may need to avoid heavy lifting and strenuous activities for a period following the procedure.
- **Follow-Up Appointments:** Regular follow-ups with the treating physician to monitor recovery and assess treatment effectiveness.

Conclusion

Intracept is a minimally invasive procedure designed to provide long-lasting pain relief for patients with chronic low back pain caused by degenerative disc disease. By targeting a specific nerve pathway believed to be involved in the generation of pain, Intracept offers a promising treatment option for individuals who have not found relief with conservative therapies. If you are experiencing chronic low back pain, consult with a spine specialist to determine if Intracept may be an appropriate treatment option for your condition.