



Six new products lift firm's posture

Theken Spine says it's having a record year

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An Akron biomedical company that develops products used in spinal surgery is having a record year.

Theken Spine is launching two new products this summer, has received Food and Drug Administration clearance for two more and another two products are planned for release later this year.

"This is very exciting for us," company spokeswoman Rachael Smith said. "We're coming out with the most projects Theken has ever come out with in one year."

The two products hitting the market this summer are Vu Mesh Peek-Optima Vertebral Body replacement system and the Atoll Cevico-Thoracic System.

Vu Mesh received FDA approval in April and was used in surgery for the first time May 15.

The product is for use in the mid- and lower-back areas to replace a collapsed, damaged or unstable vertebrae due to trauma or tumor. When a disc and vertebrae are removed, the system acts as a spacer, maintaining proper distance between vertebrae.

Atoll got the nod from the FDA in May and the first surgery was performed June 7.

Atoll is a system of titanium alloy screws, rods and hooks. It promotes fusion of the cevico-thoracic regions of the spine in patients with degenerative disc disease, spinal stenosis, fracture and dislocation, tumors and revision of previous surgery.

The two new products cleared by the FDA this month are Vu ePOD (a vertebral body replacement for the thoracolumbar spine) and x-POD Adjustable Vertebral Body Replacement (a mechanism that maximizes bone graft placement.)

Waiting in the wings for clearance: the Coral Cannulated Screw System and the BodyForm Thoracic Plate.

Theken named for founder Randy Theken (pronounced "taken") has also been busy this year pulling some of its out-of-state facilities to Akron.

Its distribution center in Morgantown, W.Va., was closed on June 29 and moved to Theken's headquarters on East Waterloo Road.

And its manufacturing unit, Therics LLC, was moved to Akron from Princeton, N.J.

Therics manufactures orthobiologic products, including a variety of bone substitute products that promote bone growth.

Combined, the consolidation added about 10 jobs to the Akron facility.

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