

VAX-D CLINICAL STUDIES

AN INDUSTRY BASED, RETOSPECTIVE, COST ANALYSIS OF VERTEBRAL AXIAL DECOMPRESSION VS. SURGERY FOR LUMBAR DISC DISEASE: 10 CASE STUDIES

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EXCERPTS/SUMMARY

Sinclair Oil Corporation Study, Tulsa Oklahoma

Introduction This study was undertaken to explore creative suggestions in controlling benefits costs while maintaining an overall competitive health care package; reducing pain, suffering, and absenteeism in the company workforce; and reducing the associated costs of medical insurance and employee absences to the company. The "costs" data for this paper was derived from a five (5) year study involving 10 employee case files from a small petrochemical refinery and the experience gained in the diverse worlds of medicine and business.

The agreement offers refinery employees, Vertebral Axial Decompression (VAD) utilizing the VAX-D, as a self-selected alternative to back surgery. This agreement was not planned as a research tool, but as an open-ended, non-blinded, outcome based trial.

Cost Outcomes	Surgery	VAX-D
Time off work	17.6 weeks average The four patients that returned to work averaged 9 weeks TTD. The one now on PTD was on TTD for 52 weeks prior to adjudication.	36.75 hours
Average wage	\$22.50/hr	\$22.50/hr
Total Wages Paid while off work	\$15,840 each	\$826 each
Average overtime wage	\$33.75/hr	N/A
Total Overtime	\$23,760	None
PTD/PPD	PTD \$672,000 for one PPD is pending on one and averages \$54,142	None
Procedure cost	\$263,434 Average = \$52,687/person	\$5,685-\$6826 Average =
\$6,227/per person		
Total Cash-Cost	<u>\$237,515 each</u>	<u>\$7,053 each</u>

to the employer