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ANESTHESIA PAIN CARE CONSULTANTS NOW OFFERING OXYGEN-OZONE TREATMENTS FOR THOSE WITH HERNIATED VERTEBRAL DISC DISEASE

Minimally invasive procedure effective in approximately 79 percent of patients, with very low complication rate

TAMARAC/BOCA RATON, Fla. – There is good news for South Floridians suffering from chronic pain associated with degenerative disc disease. Anesthesia Pain Care Consultants (APCC) is now offering oxygen-ozone treatments, which have been shown to be effective at decreasing disc volume and pressure on the nerves, reducing or eliminating pain while improving function.

Oxygen-ozone gas is delivered via injection by an interventional pain management physician directly into the herniated disc. Once injected into the affected disc, the ozone gas reactive process works over two to three months (mechanically), significantly reducing the size of the disc. This offers a long-term, non-surgical approach to reducing pain caused by herniated/bulging discs.

At APCC, the ozone treatments are not covered by insurance and cost approximately \$3,000, including the outpatient surgical center expenses. The procedure is performed by Javier Vilasuso, MD, who has administered hundreds of these treatments with great results. It is done on an outpatient basis at The Surgery Center of Fort Lauderdale.

“Interventional pain management physicians strive to relieve chronic pain in patients with a combination of minimally invasive procedures coupled with physical therapy and medication management,” said Ira Fox, MD, DABPB, FIPP, ABIPP, co-founder of APCC and current president of the World Society of Pain Clinicians. “The oxygen-ozone procedure is a viable option for those suffering from disc disease.”

These positive results can be attributed to a chemical reaction with the oxygen-ozone gas that causes the oxidation of proteoglycans, proteins found within the gel-like center of the disc (also known as the nucleus pulposus).

David, a 36-year-old Hispanic male and accountant, has had trouble sitting at work and standing for prolonged periods of time due to multiple disc herniations in his lower back. After receiving minimal relief from epidural steroid injections, he contacted APCC to try the ozone procedure. He affirms that he now has 90 percent pain relief and is taking minimal medication.

Used throughout Europe and Asia for more than three decades, this treatment is now becoming more available in the United States. In 2009, Dr. Kieran Murphy, a researcher at the University of Toronto, presented findings from a combination of several studies on oxygen-ozone treatments that showed patient outcomes were similar in terms of pain

reduction and patient function for those who had a discectomy. Researchers also reported that the complication rate and recovery time were lower with oxygen-ozone injections compared to other surgical techniques commonly used to treat disc disease.

Dr. Vilasuso has extensive training and experience treating both benign and malignant pain syndromes, which comes from his time at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. His special training includes the Vertos Medical MILD® procedure. Dr. Vilasuso is a member of the American Board of Anesthesiology, the American Society of Regional Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine and the American Society of Anesthesiologists. He has contributed to numerous conferences and case studies with regard to techniques used in the treatment of chronic pain patients. In 2013, he was honored by the International Association of Anesthesiologists and recognized in its renowned publication called The Leading Physicians of the World.

Dr. Vilasuso earned his medical degree from the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine. He attended the University of South Florida where he completed his fellowship training in pain management and residency in anesthesiology.

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Anesthesia Pain Care Consultants operates offices in Tamarac and Boca Raton, Fla. and has built a reputation for excellence and success in relieving pain for its patients. Founded in 1996, the mission of APCC is to concentrate on the diagnosis and treatment of pain through the use of interventional techniques, as well as physical therapy and medication management, when needed. Dr. Ira Fox, MD, DABPM, FIPP, ABIPP, performs IMEs and functions as an expert medical witness in personal injury and workers' comp cases. Dedicated physicians, modern technology and extensive experience are combined at APCC to provide significant pain reduction associated with accidents, surgery and chronic conditions. To learn more about APCC, please visit <http://apccfl.com>.