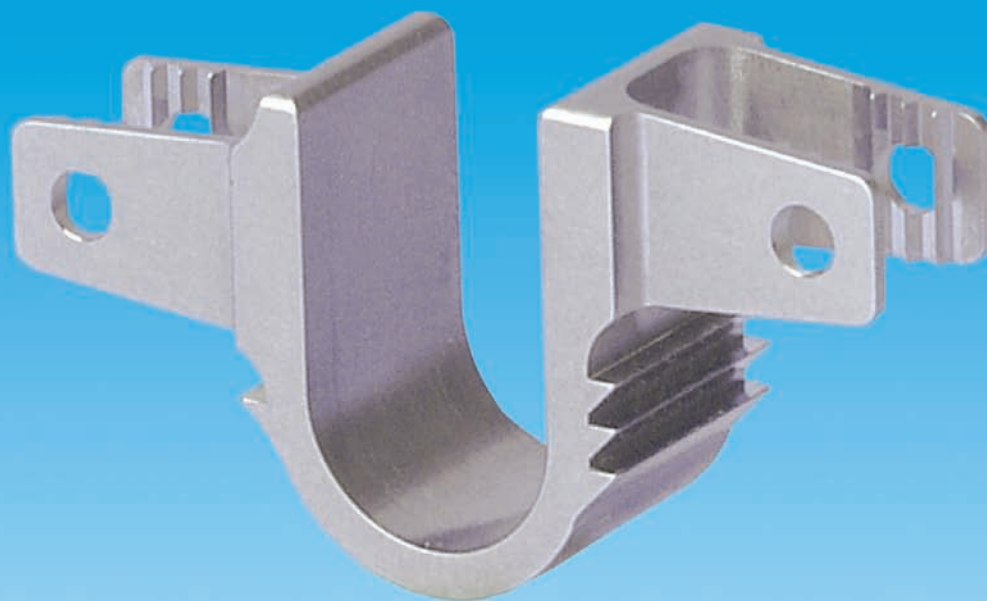


***Le U* – THE SYSTEM FOR  
DYNAMIC STABILISATION  
OF THE LUMBAR SPINE**



# FLEXIBILITY AND STABILITY FOR HIGHEST COMFORT



Dr. Benoît Laurent  
serves as  
ARCA-MEDICA's  
Managing Partner  
and co-owns the  
company.

## **Le U – The Product and Its History**

The so-called “U” was invented by the French physician Dr Jacques Samani and implanted in 1994 for the first time.

I am a physician myself. I have been working intensively with new techniques and inventions since the early nineties. In 2000, I came across the “U” and was quickly convinced by its qualities.

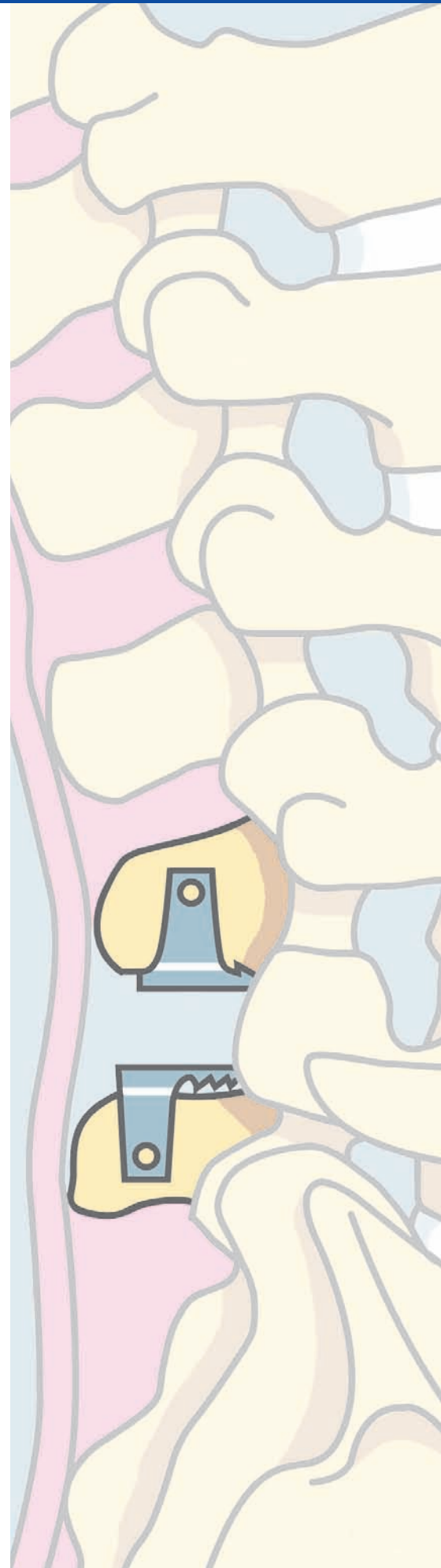
The “U”, which I encountered while working with the spine surgeon Dr. Friedrich Sgier in Lucerne (Switzerland), presents a fascinating answer to problems in spine surgery that had hit me to not been truly solved.

I was immediately convinced by the fact that the patients who had undergone decompressions of the lower spine, quickly regained both their flexibility as well as stability. In my opinion, the contentment of the patients after the operation and the simplicity of the surgical procedure are the main reasons for the success of the “U”.

Since 2005, Arca-Medica has been producing a titanium implant by the name of “Le U” in facilities located in Germany and Switzerland. *Le U*, a certified product, is cut out of a solid titanium block and therefore extremely durable. We are proud to offer *Le U* at a reasonable price.

ARCA-MEDICA GmbH

Dr. Benoît Laurent





## What Indications mandate the Implantation of *Le U*?

■ *Le U* presents an alternative to the fusion of the spine. It is implanted after decompressing surgery of lumbar canal stenosis and also when the facet joints are athrotic.

These two conditions occur either together or in isolation. After decompressing operations of the lumbar spine and resections of athrotic joints of the vertebrae, we often witness the problem of an ensuing instability of the spinal segment. The implant, however, stabilizes the operated segment and preserves its flexibility.

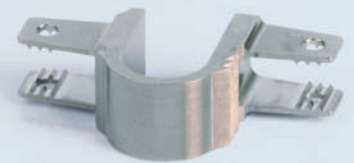
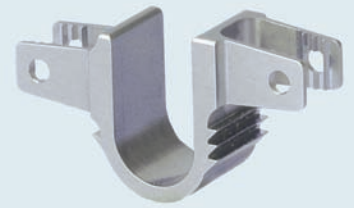
■ Another indication is the protection of the neighbouring segment after a rigid spinal fusion.

■ When we operate on herniated discs, especially recidivic cases, the implant serves yet another function: it can also prevent the proliferation of neuroforaminal stenoses. It supports the joints of the vertebrae through intervertebral stabilization.

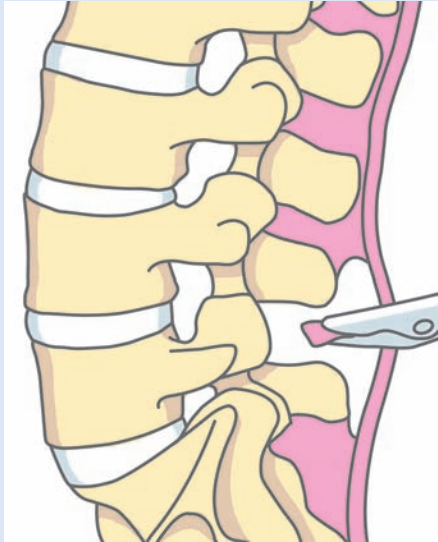
■ It can also be useful in cases of painfull intervertebral joints. Because of its extension and inter-spinal distraction of the facet joints, it prevents further deterioration.

## What does *Le U* achieve?

- It relieves and mechanically protects the joints of the vertebrae.
- It may open up neuroforaminae.
- It maintains flexibility in extension (cushion effect) but also in rotation.
- It protects the disc by absorbing some of the strain exerted upon them.
- The asymmetric configuration of the upper and lower gripping jaws allows for a bi-segmental implantation.
- Five different anatomical sizes guarantee that during an operation, the doctor can choose the optimal implant size and fit it well.

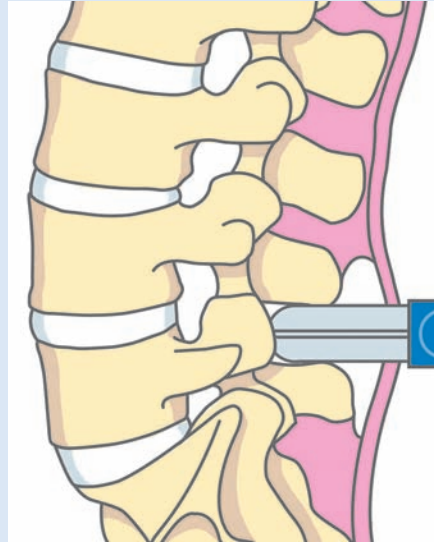


# THE STEPS OF THE OPERATION



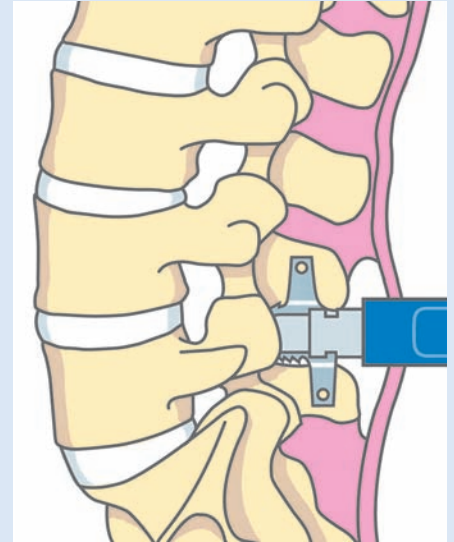
## 1. Step

The patient is placed on the stomach in neutral position. The median incision is chosen according to the place of the decompression of the neural structures. The decompression can be executed as a unilateral or bilateral "undercutting". This way, the supraspinous ligament can be held to the side, thus preserving it. Now, you remove the interspinous ligament and, possibly, resect hypertrophied spinous processes.



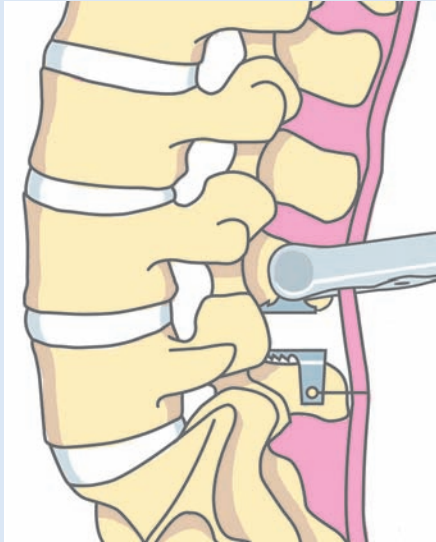
## 2. Step

Choose the right size of *Le U* with the template. Thus, a perfect fit is guaranteed. Please pay attention to light distractions without kyphosing the segment. An X-ray check may be helpful.



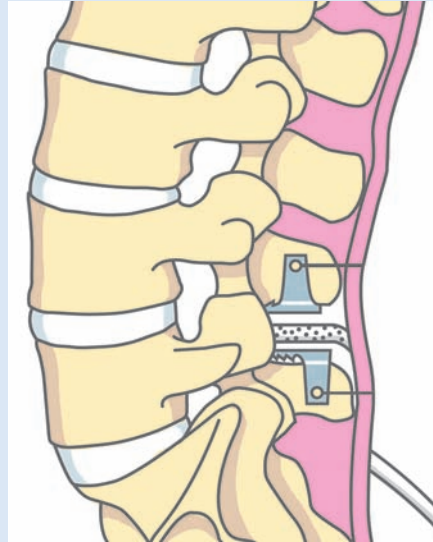
## 3. Step

Open the gripping jaws of the implant slightly with a forceps. Slip *Le U* with the impactor into its optimal position. This position is only millimeters away from the dura; the closer to the dura, the better.



## 4. Step

Using a compression forceps, press the gripping jaws of the *Le U* together. Under exceptional circumstances, you can use the holes in the gripping jaws for a wire or thread cerclage in order to improve fixation to the spinous processes.



## 5. Step

Now, you can fix the supraspinous ligament to the spinous process and link it with the fascia. We recommend to insert a drainage into the round of *Le U*; remove it after two days. Further, we recommend a final X-ray check.

### The Right Forceps

In some cases, the gripping jaws of the implant have to be adjusted to the individual anatomy of the spinous processes.

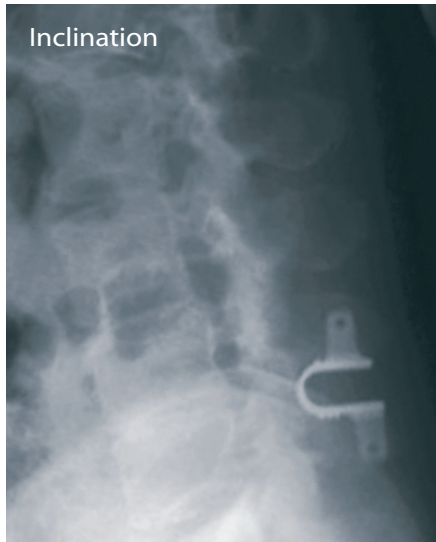


To this end we developed the **compression forceps**. The compression forceps helps to close the gripping jaws of the implant.



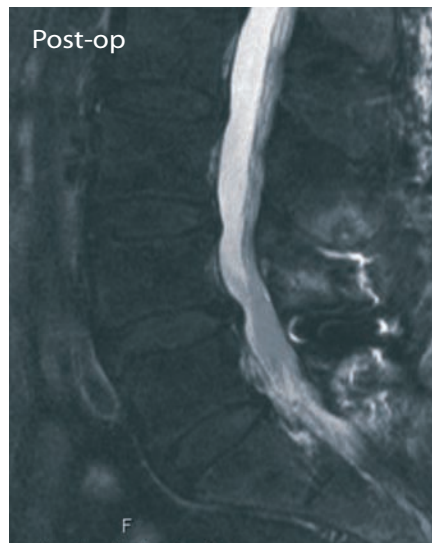
We developed the **distraction forceps** in case the gripping jaws of the implant have to be opened again.

# CLINICAL EXAMPLES



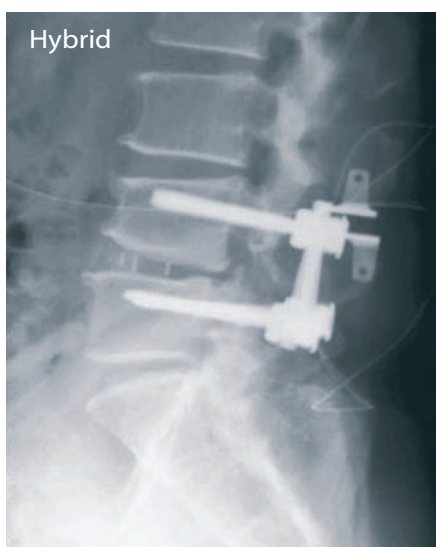
## Extension effect

The post-op pictures show the dynamic spring effect.



## Decompression

Condition after decompression of a spinal canal stenosis



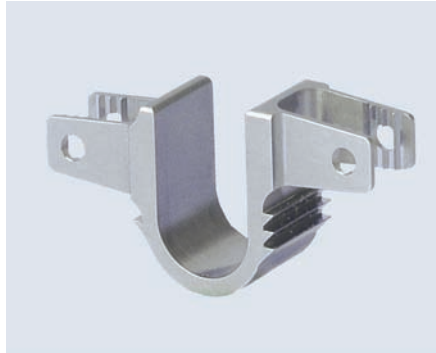
## Hybrid

*Le U* is placed in addition above a rigid spondylodesis in order to protect the neighbouring segment.

## Multiple level

Due to the design of *Le U* the gripping jaws are staggered. *Le U* can be implanted multiple level.

# IMPLANTS AND INSTRUMENTS



## Implants

sterile

*Le U*, size 8 mm

*Le U*, size 10 mm

*Le U*, size 12 mm

*Le U*, size 14 mm

*Le U*, size 16 mm

non-sterile

*Le U*, size 8 mm

*Le U*, size 10 mm

*Le U*, size 12 mm

*Le U*, size 14 mm

*Le U*, size 16 mm

Ordering-number

AM\_100-08-S

AM\_100-10-S

AM\_100-12-S

AM\_100-14-S

AM\_100-16-S

AM\_100-08

AM\_100-10

AM\_100-12

AM\_100-14

AM\_100-16



## Impactors/Templates

Ordering-number

size 8 mm

AM\_500-E08

size 10 mm

AM\_500-E10

size 12 mm

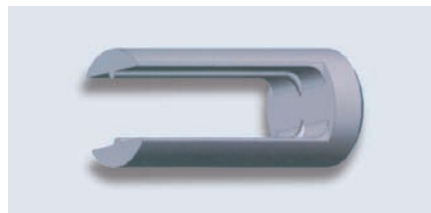
AM\_500-E12

size 14 mm

AM\_500-E14

size 16 mm

AM\_500-E16



## Protection cap

Ordering-number

Universal cap for  
template protection

AM\_555-HO1



## Distraction forceps

Ordering-number

AM\_620-O1



## Compression forceps

Ordering-number

AM\_610-O1

## Container

Ordering-number

Content

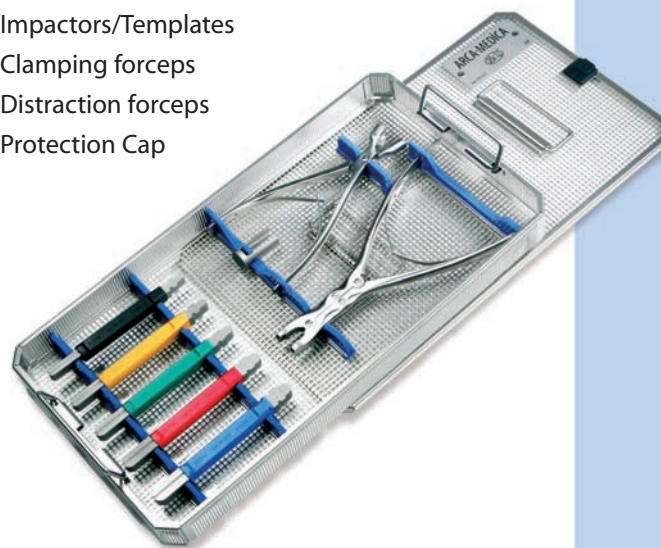
AM\_500-K01

Impactors/Templates

Clamping forceps

Distraction forceps

Protection Cap



## Visit our Website

Here you may find  
ordering and product  
information.

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