

The use of bone morphogenic protein has been studied significantly for spinal patients. This product was designed to be used to fuse the lower back bones during an operation performed through the abdomen. However, this product has also been shown to be effective for fusing other aspects of bony surgery including neck surgery. Neck surgery with the use of BMP has been associated with swelling and other complications. The swelling can result in problems swallowing, breathing, and it may require other surgeries or re-operations to deal with swollen tissues around the site of the surgery. In some circumstances, the complications have resulted in patients needing ventilator support or a breathing tube to be placed in the neck. Dr. Taylor feels that you may be a candidate to use BMP or INFUSE in off-label fashion for your neck surgery. Dr. Taylor has used this product for a number of years in the neck successfully and feels that your particular circumstance might benefit by the use of BMP if you consent to its use in off-label fashion. Please ask Dr. Taylor or his nurse Lori Burke if you have additional questions regarding the use of BMP in off-label fashion for your surgical case. Attached is a copy of the letter from Medtronic Sofamor-Danek reporting the safety alert regarding the use of BMP in neck surgery.