

FAULTY SPINAL SUPPORT RODS

On 13th February 2020, NuVasive Inc, an American medical device company, issued an urgent field safety notice to healthcare providers using MAGEC System Model X rods in patients. This notice issued a recall of the MAGEC System Model X rods having discovered that some patients had experienced the separation of an end cap component in the rod after surgery. NuVasive Inc indicated that the cause of this issue is still under investigation.

The number of patients affected is not yet known. However, the MAGEC System Model X rods, which were manufactured in 2017, have been used in children to treat scoliosis. Scoliosis is a sideways curvature of the spine. The spinal rods are surgically implanted to support spinal growth and protect lung development. The spinal rods have been implanted in children as young as two years.

An audit is now underway in Ireland to identify the children who have had the MAGEC System Model X rods implanted to treat scoliosis. Whether or not these children will have to undergo further surgery to have these faulty rods removed will be a decision for their treating doctors.

Once concerned parents have had an opportunity to consider their options, this issue may result in a number of personal injury* compensation claims being brought against NuVasive Inc for damage and loss caused by their defective products and/or against the treating hospitals for medical negligence, if the surgical treatment fell below the standard of care. This is a very serious issue.

If you are the parent of a child who has had spinal rods implanted and you are concerned that these rods may be the MAGEC System Model X rods, then you should contact your GP and book an appointment to meet him / her. They may be in a position to put your concerns at ease immediately. Alternatively, they can arrange to make a referral to the surgical team that treated your child for assessment and investigation.

If you would like to speak with us in relation to your legal options, contact us today. While we are based in Dublin, we do offer a nationwide service and do our best to ensure that as much work as possible is carried out by telephone, email and post.

**In contentious cases, a solicitor may not charge fees or expenses as a portion or percentage of any award or settlement. Before acting or refraining from acting on anything in this guide, legal advice should be sought from a solicitor.*