



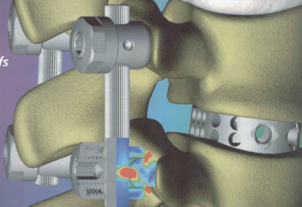
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See page 22

ON THE COVER



This image from ACES GmbH of Stuttgart, Germany, shows a finite element model of a specialized flexible screw in a spinal implant system, which rigidly connects two or more spinal bodies for cases of severe disc degeneration or scoliosis. Conventional rigid screws create an undesirable force on the spine when tightened, but this polyaxial screw reduces these forces using a flexible screw head. NE/Nastran nonlinear static analysis software from Noran Engineering (Westminster, CA) was used to address the problems of 3D surface contact among three arbitrarily shaped bodies, as well as material nonlinearity. For more information on V&I, the latest version of Noran's NE/Nastran, see *New on the Market* beginning on page 67.

(Image courtesy of Noran Engineering and ACES)