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## Standard Terminology Relating to Spinal Implants<sup>1</sup>

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### 1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers basic terms and considerations for spinal implant devices and their mechanical analyses.

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:<sup>2</sup>

[E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing](#)

[E1150 Definitions of Terms Relating to Fatigue](#) (Withdrawn 1996)<sup>3</sup>

### 3. Terminology

#### Definitions Related to Spinal Implant Devices

**anchor**, *n*—components that are directly attached to the bony elements of the spine (sacrum, lamina, pedicle, vertebral body, spinous process, transverse process, the pelvis, or ribs).

**band**, *n*—a flexible anchor component with a noncircular cross section that connects the bony elements of the spine, pelvis, or ribs to each other or to other implant components using a knot or similar tying mechanism, forming a locked, closed loop.

**bolt**, *n*—an anchor component that connects to the bony elements of the spine, pelvis, or ribs by means of threads with the lead threads accommodating a nut thus sandwiching the bony element or implant component between the nut or washer and bolt head or other fixed stop.

**expansion anchor**, *n*—a component that forms a connection to bony element by means of a mechanism which enlarges once the component is inserted into the bony elements.

**hook**, *n*—an anchoring component that fastens to the spine by means of a curved blade passed under or over lamina, transverse or spinous processes or into an anatomic or surgically created notch or opening.

**hook blade**, *n*—that portion of a spinal hook that is placed under, over, or into a bony structure to provide attachment.

**hook body**—that portion of a spinal hook that connects the hook blade to the longitudinal element.

**post**, *n*—a non-threaded anchor component that connects to the bony elements of the spine, pelvis, or ribs by means of a non-threaded hole in the bony element.

**screw**, *n*—an anchor component that connects to the bony elements of the spine, pelvis, or ribs by means of threads.

**staple**, *n*—an anchor component that connects the bony elements of the spine, pelvis, or ribs to each other or to other implant components by using at least two interconnected posts.

**wire**—a single strand flexible anchor component with a circular cross section that connects the bony elements of the spine, pelvis, or ribs to each other or to other implant components. A series of wire components can be bound together to form a cable (see **cable**).

**assembly**, *n*—a complete implant configuration (not including spine, pelvis, ribs, or substitute material) as intended for surgical use.

**component**, *n*—any single element used in an assembly.

**construct**, *n*—a complete implant configuration attached to and including the spine, pelvis, ribs or substitute material as intended for surgical use.

**interbody spacer**, *n*—a structure (biologic or synthetic) to replace (partially or totally) the vertebral body or intervertebral disk(s), or both.

**intervertebral body fusion devices**, *n*—a structure which is placed in the disc space between two adjacent vertebral bodies to provide support for eventual arthrodeses of the two adjacent vertebral bodies.

**intervertebral body fusion cage**, *n*—a hollow device which contains graft material.

<sup>1</sup> This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F04 on Medical and Surgical Materials and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F04.25 on Spinal Devices.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).