

**RIWOspine** is a leading company specializing in full-endoscopic spine surgery and interventional pain therapy. It is part of the **Richard Wolf GmbH** group, which is known for developing minimally invasive surgical instruments and technologies. RIWOspine's core focus is on providing innovative, minimally invasive solutions for spine problems, particularly using endoscopic techniques to treat conditions like disc herniations, spinal stenosis, and facet joint syndromes.

Their product range includes advanced imaging systems, such as 4K cameras and specialized radiofrequency tools, which enhance precision during procedures. Their **VERTEBRIS** line offers full-endoscopic decompression systems for lumbar, cervical, and thoracic spine issues, enabling surgeons to perform minimally invasive operations with faster recovery times and less trauma for patients.

A anatomical study examines the feasibility of a novel full-endoscopic uniportal technique with a [transthoracic retropleural approach](#) for decompression of the anterior thoracic [spinal canal](#). Operations were performed on three fresh adult cadavers. The endoscope used, from [RIWOspine](#), Germany, has a shaft cross-section of 6.9 × 5.9 mm and a 25° view angle. It contains an eccentric intraendoscopic working channel with a diameter of 4.1 mm. A transthoracic retropleural approach was used. The anatomical structures were dissected and the anterior thoracic epidural space was decompressed. The planned steps of the operation were performed on all cadavers. The transthoracic retropleural approach allowed the target region to be accessed easily. The anatomical structures could be identified and dissected. The anterior thoracic epidural space could be decompressed sufficiently. Using the uniportal full-endoscopic operation technique with a transthoracic retropleural approach, the anterior thoracic epidural space can be adequately reached. This is a minimally invasive method with the known advantages of an endoscopic technique under continuous irrigation. The [retropleural approach](#) allows direct access. The instruments are available for clinical use and have been established for years in other operations on the entire spine <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Ruetten S, Hahn P, Oezdemir S, Baraliakos X, Godolias G, Komp M. Decompression of the anterior thoracic spinal canal using a novel full-endoscopic uniportal transthoracic retropleural technique-an anatomical feasibility study in human cadavers. Clin Anat. 2018 Mar 25. doi: 10.1002/ca.23075. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29577428.

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