

1 The neck brace, I wouldn't go without it because
2 the pain was excruciating without it. And I actually wore
3 that neck brace longer than -- into this year, longer than
4 what they actually said I had to, because when I took it
5 off the pain was too bad.

6 Q. Besides pain, what was the purpose of wearing the
7 neck brace?

8 A. Well, what they had done -- I didn't finish the
9 operation. The bone that they cut out of the back of my
10 five vertebrae, they grounded up, and they took out all my
11 disks for those five levels, and they tapped that down,
12 after they ground it up, in between the vertebrae. Then
13 those two plates and ten bolts was to hold it all together
14 until it fused. So they wanted me to wear that neck brace
15 until they knew that they had a fusion in my neck to where
16 they wouldn't have to go in and do the surgery over again,
17 or where it might go wrong in the spinal cord, become
18 impinged, which would be fatal.

19 Q. Describe the effect, if anything, the harness and
20 the brace had on your ability to move?

21 A. Well, the shoulder brace totally restricted any
22 upper body movement that I had in my shoulders. All I had
23 was my hands and arms out here (indicating). It held me
24 in. There is no movement.

25 The neck brace held my head up, and that made my