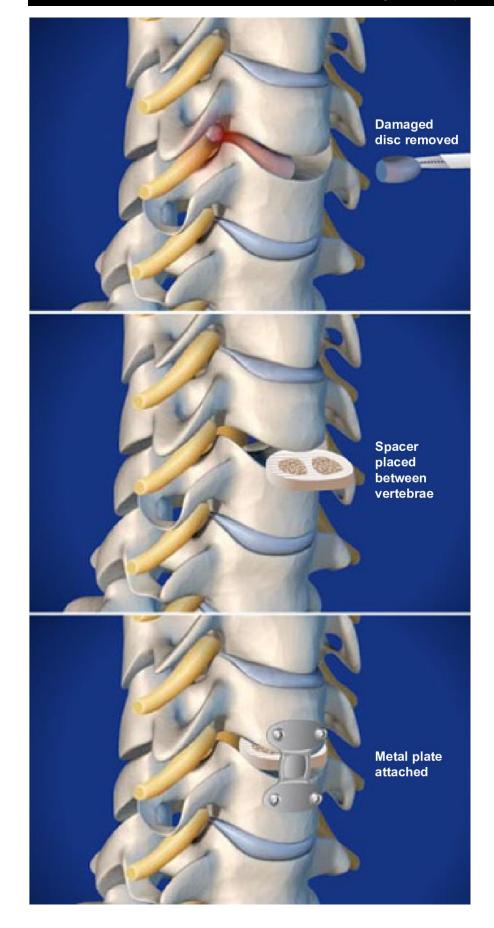


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## Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion (Intervertebral Spacer)



## Overview

This surgery removes a herniated or diseased disc and relieves neck and radiating arm pain caused by parts of the disc pressing on nerve roots.

## **Incision Created**

The surgeon performs this procedure through an incision on the front of the neck.

## **Disc Removed**

First, the surgeon removes the diseased or damaged disc. Removing the disc relieves pressure on pinched nerve roots, alleviating pain.

## Spacer Inserted

Next, the space above and below the removed disc is cleared and prepared for a vertebral spacer. A bone graft material is inserted into the spacer, and the implant is placed between the vertebrae.

# **Metal Plate Attached**

The surgeon may then screw a small metal plate over the area to hold the bones in place while the vertebrae heal.

## End of Procedure

During the healing process, the vertebral bone above and below the spacer will knit together to form a new bone mass called a fusion.