

# Anterior Cervical Discectomy

This surgery removes a herniated or diseased disc, relieving neck and radiating arm pain caused by parts of the disc pressing on nerve roots. The surgeon performs this procedure through an incision on the front of the neck.

## STEP 1

The diseased or damaged disc is removed. As pressure is removed from the pinched nerve roots, pain is relieved.

## STEP 2

The disc space is cleared and prepared for a bone graft. The graft is placed between the vertebrae.

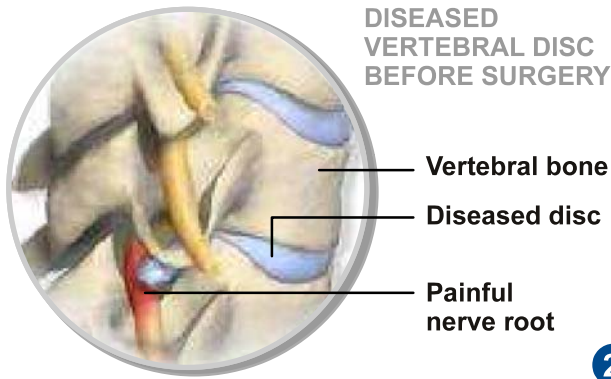
## STEP 3

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

## STEP 4

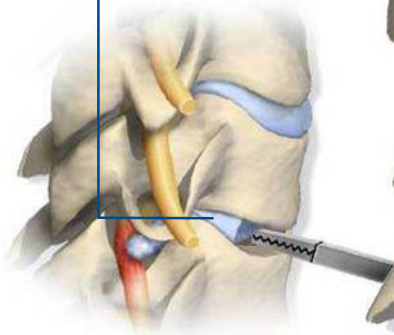
During the healing process, the bone graft knits together with the vertebrae above and below to form a new bone mass called a fusion.

DISEASED VERTEBRAL DISC BEFORE SURGERY

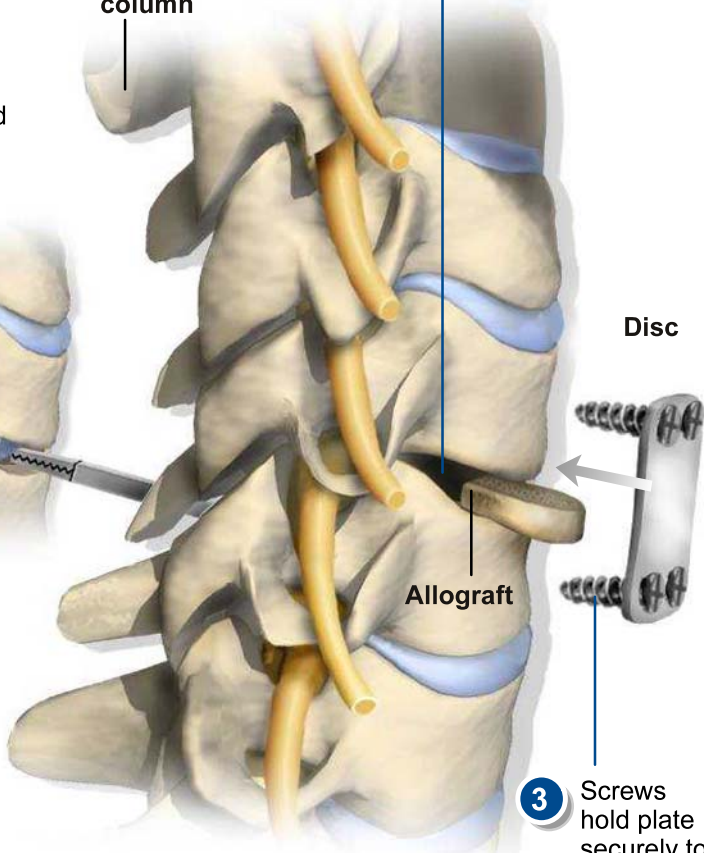


Spinal column

1 Diseased disc is removed

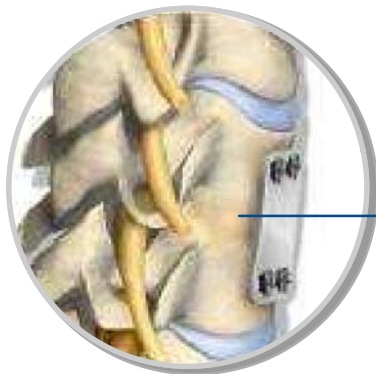


2 The space is cleared and prepared for the allograft



3 Screws hold plate securely to vertebrae

DISEASED VERTEBRAL DISC AFTER SURGERY



4 Bone graft knits or fuses together with the vertebrae