

Interbody Fusion Surgery

This surgery is designed to be a less invasive procedure for patients diagnosed with degenerative disc disease. Two metal cylinders will hold the vertebrae together while fusion occurs. This procedure can be performed through the front or back of the spine. The surgery shown in this example is performed through the front.

STEP 1

Through an incision in the abdomen, the damaged disc is removed.

STEP 2

Temporary plugs are inserted between the vertebrae to keep the space open. By separating the vertebrae above and below the damaged disc, pressure is relieved from the pinched nerve.

STEP 3

The surgeon removes one of the plugs and creates a hole in the vertebrae bodies. A metal cage is packed with bone graft and screwed tightly into the hole.

STEP 4

The other temporary plug is removed and the hole is made ready for the second implant.

END OF PROCEDURE

The morselized bone will grow through and around the implants. This fuses the implants with the vertebrae above and below to form one solid structure.

