

Cervical Spine Fusion

Using an Anterior Approach

What is cervical spine fusion?

Cervical fusion is the process of joining selected bones in the neck, or cervical spine. Dr. Paul uses titanium interbody cages and cervical plates to do this.

Who is a candidate for cervical spine fusion?

You may be a candidate for this procedure if:

- You suffer from an injury to your neck as a result of an automobile or work accident.
- You have one or multiple herniated disk(s).
- You suffer from spinal cord compression.
- You have been diagnosed with degenerative disc disease.
- You suffer from arthritis, resulting in spinal stenosis.

How does the procedure work?

Beginning surgery, Dr. Paul makes a small incision in the front (anterior) portion of the neck, either on the left or right side. He enters the space through this incision and then removes the damaged disk and any bone spurs, fragments, etc. He inserts the interbody cage, which includes demineralized bone matrix (DBM) and bone marrow, taken from the patient. Then, the spine is stabilized and the titanium plates are attached, using screws.

What happens after surgery?

After surgery, the patient receives a collar, to help stabilize the neck after surgery. Some patients undergo physical therapy to help with their range of motion and to simplify the recovery process. During the healing process, Dr. Paul tracks patient progress with periodic x-rays as well.

**For more information about Cervical Spine Fusion, please consult our office. Dr. Paul and his staff would be happy to answer any questions you may have. **