

Lumbar Spine Fusion

What is lumbar spine fusion?

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

Who is a candidate for lumbar spine fusion?

You may be a candidate for this procedure if:

- You suffer from an injury to your back 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.

Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion

How does the procedure work?

Beginning surgery, Dr. Paul makes an incision in the abdomen. A general surgeon is present to assist in exposing the spine anteriorly. 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.

Posterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion

How does the procedure work?

Beginning surgery, Dr. Paul makes an incision in the lower back. 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.

Posterior-Lateral Lumbar Fusion using Pedicle Rods & Screws

How does the procedure work?

Beginning surgery, Dr. Paul makes an incision in the lower back. He enters the space through this incision and stabilizes the spine using pedicle rods and screws. This can be done through a minimally invasive approach, in which screws and rods are placed percutaneously, with multiple small incisions. This can also be done through an open procedure.

What happens after surgery?

After surgery, the patient receives a brace, to help stabilize the back 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 Lumbar Spine Fusion, please consult our office. Dr. Paul and his staff would be happy to answer any questions you may have. ****