

# Preparing for Your Spine Surgery

## Cervical Corpectomy

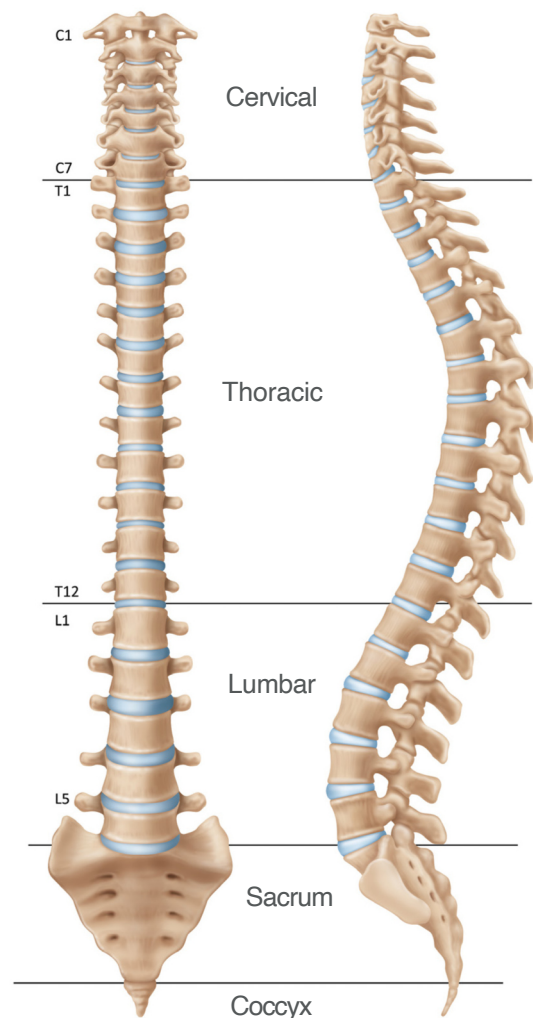
### Cervical Corpectomy

Dr. Desai has recommended spine surgery to treat your condition. This information will help you understand and prepare for your surgery. Your care provider can show you where in your spine your surgery will occur.

#### The spine

The spine consists of 33 connected bones called vertebrae (Figure 1). Between each vertebra lies a disk that serves as a cushion.

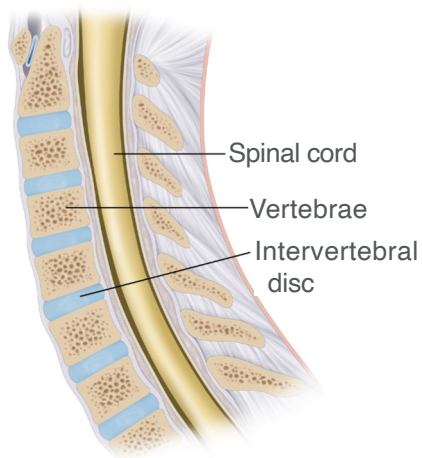
Figure 1. The spine



## Cervical spine

The cervical spine is made up of the first 7 vertebrae in the spine. It starts just below the skull and ends just above the thoracic spine. There are fibrous cushions between the vertebrae (intervertebral disks) (Figure 2). Some of the vertebrae in this area function to help you move your head up and down, left and right, and side to side.

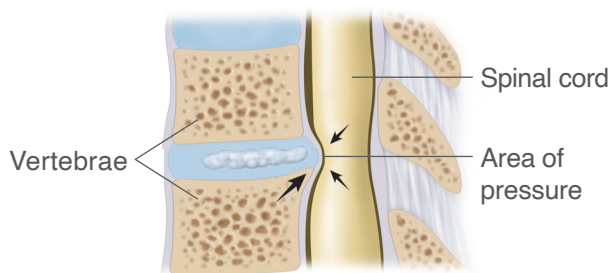
Figure 2. Cervical spine (side view)



## Cervical spinal stenosis

Spinal stenosis is a narrowing of the spaces within your spine, which can put pressure on the nerves that travel through the spine (Figure 3). In cervical stenosis, this narrowing occurs in your neck.

Figure 3. Pressure on the spinal cord due to compression of the vertebrae



## Anterior cervical corpectomy and fusion

An anterior cervical corpectomy and fusion is a type of neck surgery most often used when the neck bone (cervical vertebra) or disks cause pressure on the spinal cord and nerves (Figure 4). The surgeon will make a horizontal incision in the front of your neck (anterior) at the level where the surgery is needed. A portion of the bone and disks are removed to relieve the pressure on the spinal cord and nerves. A bone graft or device is then placed between the 2 vertebrae at the site where the bone and disk were removed. Finally, a small metal plate will be screwed into place to hold the segment together while the fusion takes place (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Removing the vertebral body to relieve pressure on the spinal cord

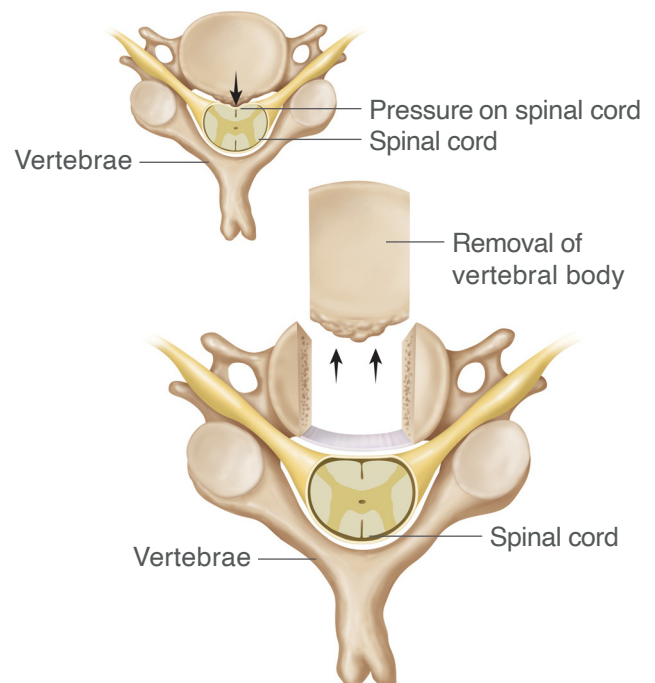
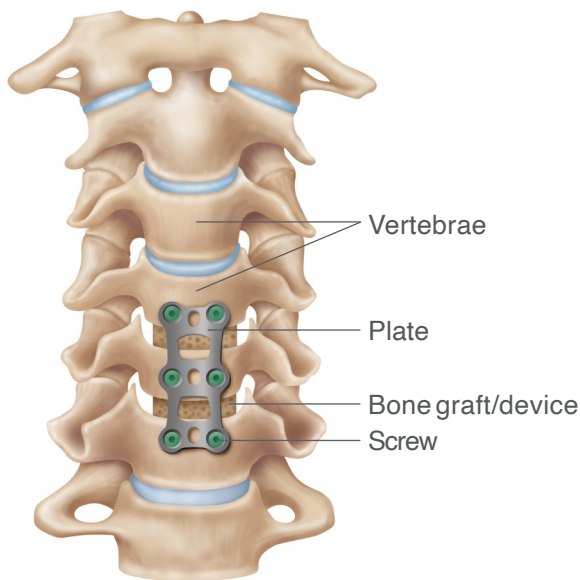


Figure 5. Bone graft plate



### Meet Your Surgeon



Dr. Parth N. Desai, M.D., is a fellowship-trained orthopedic spine surgeon who provides comprehensive spine care to patients in the Conyers and Covington area. Though originally from Georgia, Dr. Desai completed his spine training at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL. He completed his undergraduate at the University of Georgia and medical school at Mercer University. Dr. Desai specializes in the full spectrum of spinal conditions involving the neck and back, including herniated discs, spinal stenosis, degenerative disc disease, spinal instability, adult and pediatric spinal deformity, and trauma. Dr. Desai uses a holistic approach to the treatment of neck and back conditions, and considers surgery to be a last resort option. Dr. Desai has expertise in minimally invasive spine surgery, spinal deformity correction, and in the treatment of failed neck and back surgery.



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