

Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion (ALIF)

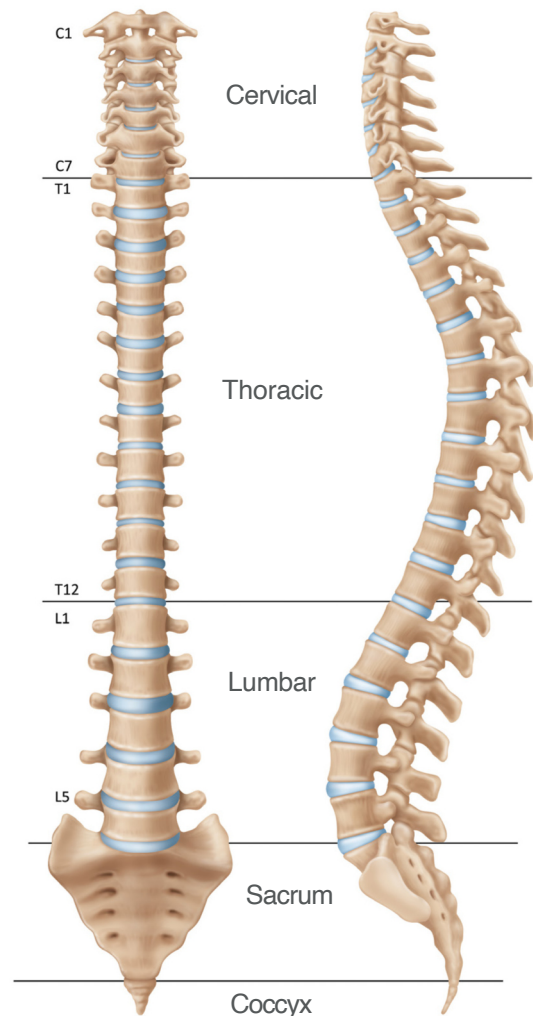
Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion

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



Spinal fusion

A spinal fusion is a type of surgery where 2 or more vertebrae are joined together. A spinal fusion is needed to repair certain parts of the spine. The damaged part (disk) is removed and replaced with a bone graft or intervertebral device. The segment is secured with screws holding the vertebrae together. As the segment heals, the vertebrae fuse and grow together into 1 bone. This makes the spine more stable.

Your specific type of spinal fusion is called an anterior lumbar interbody fusion (ALIF).

ALIF

ALIF is a type of spinal fusion surgery. A vascular surgeon and spine surgeon will both be on the operating team. The vascular surgeon will help move any major blood vessels exposed during surgery to allow the spine surgeon to access the spine. Your spine surgeon will perform the actual spinal fusion.

The surgeon will make the incision in your lower abdomen in the front of your body (anterior) to remove disk or bone material in between 2 lumbar vertebrae (Figure 2). The damaged part is removed and replaced with a bone graft in that space (interbody) (Figure 3). The bone graft may be secured with screws or rods to hold the segment together. As the segment heals, the vertebrae fuse and grow together into 1 bone. This makes the spine more stable.

Figure 2. Removal of lumbar disk or bone material

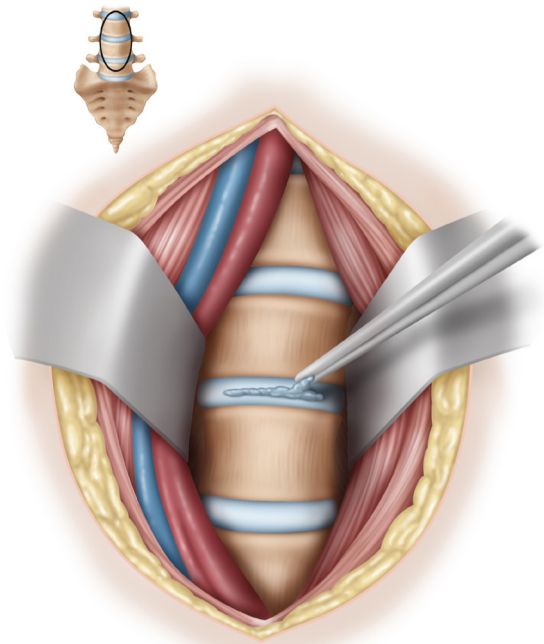
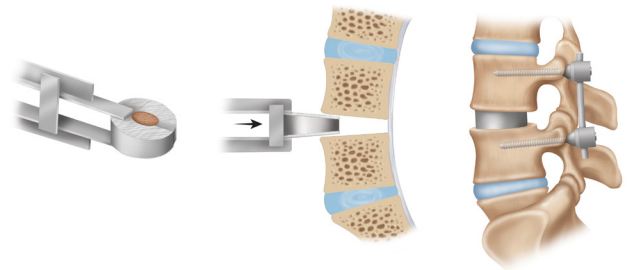


Figure 3. Interbody bone graft placement (side view)

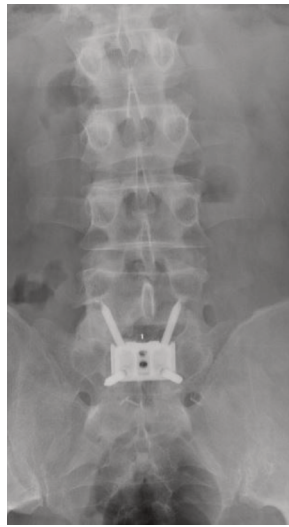


X-ray images of ALIF

Before ALIF, spondylosis at lumbar vertebrae L4-L5.



Pre Op



Post Op



Pre Op



Post Op

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.



ORTHO ATLANTA